FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 13 *18 January 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Expresses Full Support for Khomeyni A 1
PNC Resumes Meeting in Damascus 17 January A 1
Qaddumi Presents Political Report [VOP] A 1
Eight States Agree to Arab League Meeting in Mogadiscio A 4
Andrew Young's Remarks on U.S.-PLO Relations Cited [VOP] A 4
Baghdad VOP Comments A 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Oil Sales Not Increasing During Iran Stoppage C 1
[Riyadh AR-RIYAD 15 Jan]

YEMEN-YAR

President Receives Letter From Unity Forces in South C 1

EGYPT

As-Sadat Dines With Shah of Iran 17 February D 1
Shah Invited To Visit Morocco D 1
Former U.S. President Ford Arrives for 2-Day Visit D 1
Arrives in Cairo D 1
Journeys to Aswan 18 Jan D 1
As-Sadat, Ford Call on Shah D 2
As-Sadat Postpones Trip to Sudan by 1 Day D 2
Ghali, Soviet Ambassador Discuss Relations, Middle East D 2
Suez Canal Tolls Will Not Be Increased Until 1980 D 2

IRAQ

Defense Minister Returns From Damascus, Makes Statement E 1
Saddam Husayn Receives Saudi Official E 1
Arab Ministers Meeting in Baghdad Sets Up Sports Fund E 1
Saddam Husayn Addresses Ministers E 2
Official Receives Cuban Agricultural Delegation E 2
Oil Minister Reviews Oil Relations With Soviet Official E 3
Planning Minister Receives Yugoslav Official E 3
Housing Minister Receives Visiting Mauritianian Minister E 3

JORDAN

Cabinet Discusses Husayn's Visit to Syria [AD-DUSTUR 18 Jan] F 1
Husayn Receives Visiting Canadian Delegation F 1
Syria Refuses Jordanian Fruits, Vegetables [AD-DUSTUR 18 Jan] F 1
AL-AKHBAR Denounces Chinese Official's Statement on Israel [18 Jan] F 1
AD-DUSTUR Comments on PNC Meetings in Damascus [15 Jan] F 2
Amman Daily on U.S. Policy of Lenience Toward Israel F 3

LEBANON

VOL: Iran's UNIFIL Contingent Withdraws From South G 1
ADF Commander Discusses Security Situation G 1
Al-Huss, Butrus Make Statement After Cabinet Meeting G 2
Al-Huss' Statement G 2
Butrus' Statement G 3
Al-As'ad Receives Soviet, Kuwaiti, French Ambassadors G 3
VOL: Israeli Military Planes Fly Over South G 4
Intensive Sniping in Southern Suburb of Beirut [VOL] G 4

SYRIA

Syria, Iraq Discuss National Security, Foreign Relations H 1
Iraqi Defense, Foreign Ministers End Visit H 1
Culture Minister Receives Iraqi Delegation 17 Jan H 1
Khaddam Receives Lebanese Nationalist Movement Delegation H 2
Ba'th Party Official Al-Ahmar Receives Arab Visitors H 2
Receives Lebanon's Junblatt H 2
Receives Jordanian Delegation H 2
Receives Moroccan SUPF Delegation H 3

NORTH AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Saleck: Mauritania May Honor Sahara Referendum Decision [Paris LE MONDE 16 Jan] I 1

MOROCCO

Guinea President Sekku Toure Visits, Arrives in Fez I 3
Hassan Hosts Dinner in Marrakech I 3
Moroccan Commentary on Visit I 3

WESTERN SAHARA

MAP: AOSARIO Cables Waldheim on Detentions in Algeria I 4

ISRAEL

Atherton Visit Continues; Meeting With Begin, Dayan N 1
Jerusalem POST Predicts Breakthrough in Atherton Talks [18 Jan] N 1
Bomb Explosion in Jerusalem Reported N 2
Knesset Committee Approves Budget To Flesh Out Settlements N 2
Ministerial Committee Decides Against Giving Back Arab Villages N 3
Jerusalem Reacts to Criticism of Nahal Footholds N 3

Dayan Has Reservations on Way Negotiations Are Conducted ['Al HAMISHMAR 17 Jan] N 4
Agriculture Minister Discusses Political Affairs N 5
Interior Minister Burg Sees Time for Reassessment N 10
MA'ARIV: Jerusalem Angered by U.S. 'Interference' [17 Jan] N 11
DAVAR Comments on U.S.-Egyptian Alliance [17 Jan] N 12

IRAN

Tehran Announces Dismissal of Nine Ambassadors R 1
Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari Warns Against Incitement R 1
Khuzestan Governor General on Incidents in Ahvaz R 1
AFP Report R 3
Tehran Reports Six Killed in Dezful Demonstrations R 3
Talebani's Kurdish Insurgents Attack Guardpost R 3
Tehran Cites Khomeyni Message to Youth R 4
Khomeyni Promises New Constitution, Trial of Shah R 4
Regency Council Member Tehrani Goes To See Khomeyni R 4
Kuwaiti Paper Says Khomeyni Will Return 19 or 20 Jan [SANA] R 5
National Voice of Iran Calls for Unity, U.S. Departure R 5
National Voice of Iran Urges Revolutionary Forces' Action R 5

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Text of President Taraki's 31 Dec Nationwide Address S 1
More on Taraki's 26 Dec Speech to Army Officers S 4
Youth Delegation Returns From USSR, E. Europe S 5

INDIA

TIMES OF INDIA on U.S. Policy of Rearming Pakistan [13 Jan] S 5
Delhi PATRIOT on U.S. Talks in Pakistan [14 Jan] S 6
Bulgaria Signs Science, Technology Agreement S 7

SRI LANKA

Indian Commerce Minister Addresses Asian Group of 77 S 7
Group of 77 Issue Declaration on Economic Concerns S 8

BRIEFS: USSR Mining Equipment to Afghanistan; Burmese Refugees in Bangladesh; Bangladesh Manpower to Saudi Arabia; Canadian Loan for Pakistan S 9

'ARAFAT EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR KHOMEYNI

TA172010 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] And now is the time for an Egyptian Khomeyni. This was said this evening by Yasir 'Arafat at the National Council meeting being held in Damascus. 'Arafat expressed his full support for Khomeyni. The main topic being discussed behind closed doors is the issue of a dialog between the PLO and Jordan. Opposing 'Arafat on this question are the leaders of the rejection front headed by Dr George Habash.

PNC RESUMES MEETING IN DAMASCUS 17 JANUARY

JN171331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Palestine National Council [PNC] resumed its working sessions here at 1030 today under speaker Khalid al-Fahum. The council members heard speeches from the fraternal Iraqi delegation, the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the PDRY delegation and finally the National Patriotic Front delegation.

All speakers underlined the necessity of uniting all factions of the Palestinian resistance within the framework of the PLO.

Speakers also highlighted the importance of the Syrian-Iraqi reunion and its integral role in supporting the Palestinian revolution. Speakers of the friendly countries reconfirmed their support for the Arab peoples' struggle for liberation and self determination.

Qaddumi Presents Political Report

NC172146 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] resumed its work at 1830 today. Dr Walid Qamhawi, PLO Executive Committee member and chairman of the board of the Palestine national fund, read the financial report submitted by the PLO Executive Committee.

At the morning session of the PNC, brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, read the PNC political report submitted in the name of the PLO Executive Committee.

The report contained the political achievements and activities of the PLO in combating the Zionist-imperialist plotting, which culminated in the two Camp David agreements. The report denounced the liquidationist character of U.S. policy toward the Palestinian land, people and cause, as well as the dimensions of the U.S.-sponsored solution and the phases of its development. The report praised the heroic and valiant struggle waged by our fighters in the occupied land--a struggle which helps the Palestinian people's armed struggle march stride forward. The report also lauded the heroism of our fighters in their immortal and glorious war against the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

The report praised the heroism of our masses in the occupied land and the national [words indistinct] of the Zionist occupation and the results of the Camp David conspiracy, which produced the liquidationist autonomy plan. The report said: This confrontation has been characterized by consciousness and by the steadfast stand of rallying around the national command and sole representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

The report dealt with the purposeful role which the PLO has played while embarking on its political moves in the Arab arena. This role begins with the PLO's checking of the (?Sinai) agreement and its effects, and culminates in the formation of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation to face As-Sadat's capitulatory course and the U.S. liquidationist plot.

The report reaffirmed the position of the PLO on the situation in the Lebanese arena. This position consists of implementing the agreements with the Lebanese authority. The report exposed the role played by the isolationist side which is responsible for the series of flareups in this arena. The report noted the Lebanese front's exploitation of the weakness of the legitimate authority, which makes it easy for the Lebanese front to win over this authority and influence it so that it takes incorrect actions.

The report renewed the PLO's steadfast stands of consolidating its militant cohesion with the Lebanese national movement, the national front and the other patriotic forces, and of determination to bolster and back this cohesion to abort Israel's plans to gradually expand into Lebanon through the use of the agent cliques of Shidyaq and Haddad.

The report praised the Syrian-Iraqi reunion [liqa'] and the National Action Charter, which stemmed from this reunion and which was the reason for the success of the Baghdad summit conference. The report affirmed that in its concept and timing, this reunion is considered a pan-Arab achievement which completes and bolsters the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

The report noted that it is imperative for the dialog with Jordan to be based on the resolutions passed by the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences and on refusal to subscribe to the two Camp David agreements.

The report said: The entrance of the U.S.-sponsored solution into the phase of implementation has provided the PLO with the opportunity to develop the international resolutions supporting our people's rights to their homeland. These resolutions were passed by the United Nations and international conference. Furthermore, this development has strengthened the inclination of the international community to eliminate U.S. policy and reject its results.

In this context, the report noted that the resolutions passed at the 33d session of the UN General Assembly on the Palestine question and the Middle East have foiled the Camp David agreements, indirectly and through international legitimacy. The report reviewed the positive development of the PLO's relations with the socialist states to the extent that, during the past 2 years, these relations reached full coordination. The report also noted that these relations have developed into positive stands deepening the socialist states' understanding of the circumstances of the Palestinian struggle.

The report added: The PLO's plan for the future is to continue to develop the bases of dealings and the friendly relations with the socialist states in all areas, on the premise that the socialist camp, headed by the Soviet Union, is the strategic ally of our Palestinian people under the PLO's leadership.

The report said that the attitude of the European and EEC states toward the Palestine question and the PLO is developing, especially the distinguished French position, which recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights. It referred to the change in the attitudes of Norway and Spain, after Franco, and Portugal, after Salazar, as well as Austria and its positive stands at the Socialist International.

The report underscored the role of the nonalined states, noting that the PLO enjoys full membership in the nonalined states organization and its Coordination Bureau. It praised the positive resolutions issued recently by the Baghdad conference.

The report mentioned the prominent role played by the PLO in the Islamic congress organization, where the Palestine cause is receiving political and financial support which has contributed to the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland, especially in the holy city of Jerusalem. This also manifested itself internationally at the Dakar conference and the latest UN General Assembly session.

The report noted the tangible change in India's position and its positive approach to the Palestine question. It also noted the attitude of the Afghan revolution and its full recognition of the PLO. The report exposed the procrastination in the attitude of the shah of Iran in what his regime claims to be support for the Palestine cause. It emphasized that the shah played a major role in encouraging and backing As-Sadat's capitulatory initiative. It also said that the shah stretched his arm to the Horn of Africa with the aim of interfering there, (?defiled) the Arab land, occupied islands in the Arab Gulf, and helped strike at the Arab revolution in Oman to serve his ambitions in the gulf.

The report underscored the common struggle relations with the Iranian nationalist movement under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. It affirmed that the outbreak of the Iranian revolution is a big nail driven into the heart of the American settlement in the Arab region and a severe blow to American interests and influence as well as to As-Sadat's capitulatory policy.

The report spoke about the role played by the OAU, the OAU's sponsoring of the Palestine cause and its firm stand in all international conferences, in support of the Palestine cause, excluding the racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa and some states such as the Ivory Coast and Malawi.

It underlined the PLO's firm support for the African liberation movements and for the liquidation of the racist regimes, since this constitutes a step on the road to the liquidation of the Zionist racist regime.

In his report, Abu al-Lutf noted the special relations between the Palestinian people and Cuba. We referred to the attitudes of the State of Mexico and its important role in supporting the Palestine question at the United Nations under its former president. He also referred to the attitude of the regime in Venezuela, which still refuses to recognize the PLO. He anticipated some change in the Venezuelan attitude toward the Palestine cause after the current president falls and a new president takes over.

He added that the regimes in Argentina and Brazil refuse to recognize the PLO because of their subservience to and link with U.S. policy.

He underlined the positive and effective role played by the Arab and Palestinian communities in all Latin American countries. He urged that the necessary (?steps) be taken to develop relations with these states at the official and popular levels.

He also spoke about the present situation and future possibilities. He affirmed that the United States will continue to play its separate role in forging a political settlement in the Middle East on the basis of its international strategy and its return to the policy of alliances and local wars. He added that the United States is now trying to create economic blocs, such as the Southeast Asia bloc under the leadership of Singapore, and the southwest Africa bloc under the leadership of Senegal. Then, he said, there is the attempt to create a bloc of states to preserve the security of the Red Sea and another to preserve the security of the Arab Gulf, plus other Latin American groups. The United States, he said, continues its policy of fermenting internal and domestic problems so that it may control the main keys to the various regions of the world on the basis of serving its imperialist interests and maintaining its influence in accordance with its strategy of turning states into mini-states and of trying to balkanize the entire region.

He pointed out that although U.S. imperialism has managed to stir up local conflicts and achieve certain objectives in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Somalia, numerous successes have been scored by the peoples and nationalist and progressive forces in Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and the PDRY. The latest of these successes, he said, is the Iranian uprising, which constitutes a defeat for U.S. policy and a crippling blow to U.S. and Zionist influence. He anticipated more uprisings in the Middle East region, especially if As-Sadat signs the surrender document. He emphasized that the areas of U.S. influence in the Arab region are liable to receive violent social and political shocks in the (?near) future.

The report stressed the importance of the program of political action agreed upon by the resistance groups and approved and recommended by the Central Council for facing the next phase with a (?splendid) Palestinian national unity. He also affirmed that the responsibility of combating Camp David is an Arab responsibility and that the main base of this responsibility consists of Syria and the PLO.

EIGHT STATES AGREE TO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN MOGADISCIO

NC171305 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 January--The Arab League Secretariat General this afternoon received a memorandum from the government of Djibouti informing it of its agreement to hold the new session of the Arab League Council in Mogadiscio.

With the approval of Djibouti, a total of eight states have now informed the Arab League that they approve of holding this meeting in Mogadiscio.

It should be recalled that the approval of two-thirds of the Arab League member states is required according to the league regulations in order to hold the Arab League Council meeting outside the league headquarters.

ANDREW YOUNG'S REMARKS ON U.S.-PLO RELATIONS CITED

JN171714 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 1515 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Andrew Young, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has announced that U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East and at the United Nations is a failure. He said that this failure is due to a lack of effective contacts with the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative.

Young, talking to the UN [name indistinct] magazine, mouthpiece of the UN General Assembly, stressed that the United States must recognize the PLO. He added that there must be a way to establish good connections with the Palestinian people. He said: We have to face the fact that the PLO not only enjoys the Palestinian people's support, but is also playing an effective role in the Middle East. Maybe we do not like this fact and thus we have not recognized the PLO. However, our attitude does not prevent this from being a fact.

U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young reconfirmed that the PLO representatives at the United Nation are very clever politicians. He expressed the hope that the PLO representatives, who are leading the battle for the Palestine cause, will eventually triumph.

Baghdad VOP Comments

JN172025 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The representative of U.S. imperialism at the United Nations came up with a statement yesterday on the question of contacting the Palestinians. He called on his government to establish some means of contact. In this statement to an American magazine, the U.S. representative mentioned the following points: First, contact does not mean U.S. recognition of the PLO; second, the United States may be disappointed with the PLO and does not want to recognize an established fact, but the established fact is that the PLO dominantes the thinking of the Palestinians and has great influence in the Middle East; and third, Young praised the role of the representatives of the PLO leadership in the United Nations, describing them as honorable men. Young expressed the belief that these representatives will come out triumphant because they are good politicians. In other words, the U.S. representative is saying that these people, who have abandoned armed struggle and accepted the status quo, are the people to deal with. Some people may have been surprised by this statement, which implies that the PLO leadership will have a role in the settlement. However, observers of developments and those who understand the dimensions of the political settlement conspiracy are not surprised by such a statement, especially since it is known that certain circles in the PLO have worked, and are still working, to establish contacts and a dialog with U.S. imperialism. These circles have expressed their complete readiness to recognize the Zionist enemy if it recognizes the PLO. The many plans presented by these circles in this respect are no secret to anyone. The statement by the representative of U.S. imperialism at the United Nations is not the first testimony to what is going on behind closed doors to abort the struggle of our people. However, we must be fair and say that this is the first official statement to be made on the subject. The statement cannot be just a trial balloon. It was made to achieve a number of objectives.

First, the statement was made during the convocation of the 14th session of the Palestine National Council. Is this not an attempt to give reassurance to those figureheads who are wagering on U.S. imperialism and thus to strengthen their positions in the PLO?

Second, the statement is not only a political overture to the PLO, but also a sinister game to stand in the way of all the forces which are calling for a unified revolutionary program to cope with the next phase of confrontation. Therefore, in the face of such a statement, we should formulate a sound national and pan-Arab program which expresses our masses' aspirations to liberate all the national soil and to expose all those tools and figureheads who are trying to establish relations with U.S. imperialism, the enemy of our people and Arab nation.

SAUDI ARABIA

OIL SALES NOT INCREASING DURING IRAN STOPPAGE

LD181021 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 13 LD

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir, governor of the Petromin Company, has told AR-RIYAD that the kingdom has not increased the quantities of Saudi crude oil sold to the United States or to any other country because of the recent stoppage of Iranian oil exports. He said: This has not happened yet. The kingdom is committed to agreements with the friendly states to which Saudi crude oil is sold on terms concluded with each country separately. These are short-term agreements not exceeding 3 years. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia has begun negotiations with international companies organizing petrochemical projects in the country with the aim of selling them Saudi oil directly under long-term agreements. Petromin Governor Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir told AR-RIYAD that a meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, which was attended by the Ministry's under secretary, himself and the U.S. Shell Company. The discussion concerned selling Saudi oil to the company under a long-term agreement with the aim of encouraging the company to implement petrochemical projects in the kingdom. The Higher Petroleum Council had discussed the question of selling Saudi oil to the companies that own 50 percent of the capital in the petrochemical projects in Al-Jubayl and Yangu' and submitted its recommendations in this regard to the cabinet, which approved them.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM UNITY FORCES IN SOUTH

JN180610 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

["Text" of letter to lt col brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, from the leaders of the Yemeni Unity Forces--announcer-read]

[Text] To President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih:

In the name of the Yemeni Unity Forces, which are waging most honorable battles to save the southern part of Yemen from the rule of the despotic and fascist terrorist clique in many parts of the second, third, and fourth provinces, and (?which prepare) to extend their revolution to the remaining parts of the south until it reaches Aden, God willing; in the name of all the Yemeni people in the southern part, we pledge allegiance to you as president and leader of the whole Yemen. We stress our recognition of your wise national government as the representative of all the Yemeni people. We are against the division legalized by the agent clique under the leadership of its agent secretary general and president. We hope that tomorrow we will liberate the entire south as we have liberated some parts of it so far, in order that we may achieve the unity of our Yemeni homeland and manifest the unity of our one Yemeni people under your leadership. We ask God to guide your steps.

Signed: The leaders of the Yemeni Unity Forces in the second, third and fourth provinces in the southern part of the homeland.

AS-SADAT DINES WITH SHAH OF IRAN 17 JANUARY

NC172105 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 17 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this evening had dinner with Shah of Iran Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Mrs Jihan as-Sadat and Shabanu Farah attended.

Shah Invited To Visit Morocco

NC180726 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 January--AL-AHRAM reports today that the shah of Iran has not set a date for his departure from Aswan. The paper says that some Iranian sources accompanying the shah say that he will leave the area before Friday.

Meanwhile, the paper says that Abdellatif Laraki, the Moroccan ambassador to Egypt, has handed a message to the shah of Iran from King Hassan inviting him to visit Morocco while on his way to the United States.

FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT FORD ARRIVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT

Arrives in Cairo

NC171550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 January--Former U.S. President Gerald Ford and Mrs Ford arrived in Cairo at 1600 today aboard a special plane for a 2-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Anwar as-Sadat.

Former President Ford was met by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife.

Vice President and Mrs Mubrak then accompanied Mr and Mrs Ford on a helicopter tour over the Pyramids area. After the tour, they will proceed to 'Abidin Palace, where the U.S. guest will be staying.

Vice President Mubarak will host a dinner banquet in honor of the U.S. guest this evening. Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and the ministers will attend.

Journeys to Aswan 18 Jan

NC181130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Aswan, 18 January--Former U.S. President Gerald Ford and his wife arrived in Aswan at noon today on a 1-day visit. President Anwar as-Sadat and Mrs Jihan as-Sadat received the distinguished guest and his wife upon their arrival at Aswan airport.

After President as-Sadat and his wife greeted the distinguished U.S. guest and his wife, children presented them with bouquets of flowers. President as-Sadat then accompanied his guest to the airport lounge, where they spent some time together. Then they drove to the Oberoi Hotel, where former President Ford will be staying. The former U.S. president arrived in Aswan on board a special VC-21 plane.

As the former U.S. president was about to enter the car reporters asked whether he could answer some questions. He smiled and President as-Sadat replied for him: Absolutely not.

President as-Sadat and his guest rode from the airport to Al-'Aqqad Square on the outskirts of the city. They then rode from there in an open car to return the greetings of the people, who lined the street from the square to the Oberoi Hotel. President as-Sadat and his guest then took a river boat amid the cheers of the masses to Al-Fantayn island, on which the Oberoi Hotel is built.

Former President Ford will have lunch at the Oberoi Hotel and then leave for the High Dam area to visit the Kalabshah Temple and the High Dam. President as-Sadat and his wife will give a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Former President Ford and his wife.

As-Sadat, Ford Call on Shah

NC181312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 January--President Anwar as-Sadat and former U.S. President Gerald Ford today called on Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, at his suite in the Oberoi Hotel. The three men held a closed meeting.

AS-SADAT POSTPONES TRIP TO SUDAN BY 1 DAY

NC181355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 18 January--MENA has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat's trip to Sudan, which was scheduled to take place tomorrow, has been postponed to Saturday morning.

GHALI, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSS RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST

NC181407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Dr Butrus Ghali today received Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Vladimir Polyakov. The discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East.

SUEZ CANAL TOLLS WILL NOT BE INCREASED UNTIL 1980

NC181019 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, has denied reports that passage fees for the ships in the canal would be increased in proportion to the increase in the price of petroleum. He added that the fees, which the authority approved when the Suez Canal was reopened in June 1975, are still in force despite the increase in world prices. These fees, he added, will not be changed until 1980, when the first phase of the project to widen and develop the canal is completed.

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN172108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2038 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, and the members of his delegation returned here tonight after heading the Iraqi side at the meetings of the Military Cooperation Committee formed by the Higher Political Committee under the Joint Charter for National Action between the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Syria.

General Khayrallah told INA that the meetings and talks with the brothers in Syria were successful and fruitful, and were held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. The talks produced positive results in the direction of the unity of the two fraternal countries, he said.

General Khayrallah added: Our meetings with our Syrian brothers were aimed at achieving coordination and cooperation between the Iraq and Syrian armed forces in an effort to achieve the cherished military unity. The two armies form the cornerstone for the unity edifice of the two countries.

General Khayrallah said: We are greatly hopeful that our efforts will be crowned with the merger unity [al-wahdah al-indimajiyah] expressed by the historic national meeting in Baghdad and that they will achieve the Arab nation's hopes for comprehensive unity.

The defense minister's delegation included Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammad and Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of staff of the armed forces.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES SAUDI OFFICIAL

JN171248 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received here today Prince Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the supreme chairman of the Council of Youth Care in Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, Prince Faysal conveyed the greetings of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his wishes for the continued development of the fraternal relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Saddam Husayn asked Prince Faysal to convey his greetings to Crown Prince Fahd and his wishes for the prosperity and progress of our Arab people in Saudi Arabia.

Saddam Husayn and Prince Faysal then reviewed the relations between the two fraternal countries and discussed issues of interest to the Arab nation.

ARAB MINISTERS MEETING IN BAGHDAD SETS UP SPORTS FUND

JN171739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad--The council of the Arab youth and sports ministers has decided to set up an executive office made up of ministers from Iraq, Jordan, the UAE, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya.

The council also decided today during the final meeting of its 3-day session which was attended by As'ad al-As'ad, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, and the representatives of 20 Arab countries, that the capital of the Arab Fund for Sports and Youth Activities and Establishments should amount to $45 million as recommended by the special seven-man ministerial committee set up for this purpose.

The council decided that this Arab fund should be based in Baghdad, which is the capital of the country elected chairman of the executive office of the Council of Arab Youth and Sports Ministers. The contributions to this fund by Arab member states--Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya, UAE, Algeria and Iraq--will be in the same ratio as their contributions to the budget of the Arab League.

The council's executive office has been charged with studying the ways and means to finance and support the Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports during its first meeting.

The council session was attended by delegations representing 20 Arab countries: namely, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, the YAR, the PDRY and Iraq.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Ministers

JN171917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has said that the strength of any one Arab must not be used against any other Arab and that any foreign enemy of any Arab is the enemy of all Arabs. This is the tradition which Iraq believes in and has never gone against. Saddam Husayn said this during his meeting today with the Arab youth and sports ministers in the National Council building in Baghdad. We may not have acted as positively as we should have, Saddam Husayn continued, but there is nothing in our history to show that we have gone against this tradition.

Saddam Husayn added: The Arab nation is strong when every Arab country finds its strength in the other Arab countries and when every leader and ruler believes his strength lies with those he leads or rules.

Saddam Husayn said that the Arab nation is now passing through the phase of concerting its efforts to find the best means to pool Arab resources, regardless of the different methods and procedures followed.

Saddam Husayn said that the meeting of the Arab youth and sports ministers was a great and healthy step forward, and compared to the individual attempts made so far, it will have a greater effect on the Arab world. It is a collective effort on an advanced level and should triumph. Thus, he said, all efforts are now being concerted in the fields of economic coordination and political relations.

OFFICIAL RECEIVES CUBAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION

JN172006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Higher Agricultural Council, received here this evening Roman Castro, director of the Western Havana and Valles de Picadura Genetics Projects, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the relations of joint cooperation between Iraq and Cuba and the means to develop them in the agricultural and animal husbandry spheres. Ibrahim expressed his pride over the development of Iraqi-Cuban relations in the interests of the two countries and of consolidating the struggle against imperialism and its expansionist designs. He said: Our relations with Cuba are forging ahead in line with our common principles that have been drawn up by the leaders of the two friendly countries.

Castro expressed his pleasure with being able to visit Iraq and become acquainted with the swift progress of the development projects in the industrial and agricultural spheres as well as with the great changes the revolution has made on various levels.

OIL MINISTER REVIEWS OIL RELATIONS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

JN171242 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolution Command Council and oil minister, today received Dzandar Takoyev, deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, and the delegation accompanying him. A review was made of oil relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen these relations. The review also dealt with the course of progress in the oil projects being implemented by Soviet establishments in Iraq.

PLANNING MINISTER RECEIVES YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL

JN172109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, met here this evening with Stojan Matkaliev, member of the Yugoslav Federal Committee for Energy and Industry, and the delegation accompanying him.

The discussion revolved around strengthening existing relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the service of their mutual interests.

HOUSING MINISTER RECEIVES VISITING MAURITANIAN MINISTER

JN171910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of public works and housing, this evening received Col Viah Ould Mayouf, Mauritanian minister of transport, post and telecommunications, tourism and local crafts, and the delegation accompanying him.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ramadan welcomed the fraternal delegation and expressed his hope that the visit will contribute to developing bilateral relations and to expanding the scope of cooperation in various fields. Ramadan stressed the importance of these meetings in consolidating fraternal ties and the nation's unity.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the means to develop them in the various fields.

CABINET DISCUSSES HUSAYN'S VISIT TO SYRIA

JN180703 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jan 79 p 1 JN

[Text] The Cabinet held a 3-hour meeting yesterday under Prime Minister Mudar Badran. During the meeting, the prime minister briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the talks His Majesty King Husayn had with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks dealt with the recent developments in the area and the coordination of work between the two fraternal countries.

HUSAYN RECEIVES VISITING CANADIAN DELEGATION

JN171935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in the Royal Hashemite Court this evening the Canadian parliamentary delegation led by Joseph Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in the Canadian federal Parliament.

During the meeting, his majesty explained the current Middle East situation and the Jordanian stand toward the recent developments in the Arab area. His majesty also explained the bases on which a just and lasting peace should be established in the area.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the National Consultative Council; Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; and Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain.

SYRIA REFUSES JORDANIAN FRUITS, VEGETABLES

JN180730 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jan 79 p 16 JN

[Text] Amman--Effective yesterday, Syria started to refuse various Jordanian fruits and vegetables. Sources in the Ministry of Supplies have stated that the competent authorities yesterday sent back several trucks loaded with various fruits and vegetables.

AL-AKHBAR DENOUNCES CHINESE OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT ON ISRAEL

JN180824 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Jan 79 p 11 JN

[Rakan al-Majali's article: "From Communism to Racism"]

[Text] Keng Piao, chairman of the PRC State Council, [title as received] has stated that there is something in common between the Chinese and Jewish peoples; namely, each of the two peoples loves its country more than any other people in the world love theirs.

Ever since the extinction of Nazism, we have not heard such statements. This is because all peoples love their countries, adhere to their land and sanctify their nations. All peoples love their countries and struggle and sacrifice for the sake of their independence and freedom. This is a general theory.

Regarding communism as an internationalist principle, it certainly is against every form of discrimination. We regret that a high-ranking official in a big country is not aware of the fact that this country does not belong to the Jews and that the Jews love the land of others. Occupation is not love; it is rather an aggression. The seizure of the lands of others is an expression of hatred and sick racism.

We only want to remind Keng Piao that the United Nations, as an international organization, has determined that Israel is a racist regime based on aggression. We want also to remind him that China has, since the 1967 war, been in the forefront of countries that denounced occupation and aggression. The statements of the Chinese officials have even gone further to make the Arabs feel that China is not only prepared to participate in arms but also in blood.

Our reaction to the Chinese official is a mixture of astonishment and denunciation because we do not believe that China is interested in supporting the aggression, even if this stand is aimed at irritating the Soviet Union. Our relations with China and all the other countries should be based on their concept of our cause and their knowledge of the humanitarian content of Arab nationalism, which is struggling against racism and Zionism.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON PNC MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN180707 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "The Meetings of the Palestine National Council"]

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] will hold its 14th session in Damascus today under "delicate" circumstances that the Palestinian issue and the area in general are passing through. The better the conferees "assess" these circumstances in a scientific and objective manner, the better off the Palestinian issue will be, and the "Palestinian action" will be given a push forward.

The first thing we must realize is that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty will be signed this year despite all indications to the contrary. The administration of President Carter is determined to bring this about for several reasons. More likely, the administration of President Carter will not allow Israeli obstinacy or Egyptian hesitation to obstruct the signing of the treaty. The question, as President as-Sadat has said, is a question of time--nothing more.

Reports received from Washington say that after the conclusion of the peace treaty the United States will be prepared to initiate a dialog with all sides to give the peace process it started at Camp David a new momentum, perhaps by using new methods.

While the Arabs and Palestinians will be incapable of preventing President as-Sadat from signing the separate peace, they must start thinking seriously about the phase that will come after the conclusion of the treaty. Will they accept conducting a dialog with the United States, and under what terms? Who will conduct the dialog on behalf of the Palestinians? Within what framework will the dialog take place? What is the goal behind the dialog in the final analysis? And what is--in detail, not in generalities--the alternative visualization for the autonomy plan and the second Camp David agreement?

Some people might say that these questions have been answered, or most of them have been answered. However, we believe that the Palestine National Council is requested to address the details fully and carefully, because after the signing of the treaty, the Palestinians and the Baghdad Arabs will be faced with more specific questions, and consequently they will need specific answers, since the Baghdad summit conference dealt with the "principles" only.

Then there is the difficult formula between those who are calling for "military solutions" and those who are calling for "political solutions" regarding Palestinian rights within the resistance movement. Where is the point of balance between them? And what is banned and what is permitted as to Palestinian political activity, particularly since freedom of military action has been curbed in the aftermath of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the stationing of UN peace-keeping forces there?

In the last few years the Palestinian resistance movement has gained increasing international recognition of its legitimacy and the fairness of the cause it is defending. However, this international recognition has gradually come to impose on the resistance movement certain "restrictions" on military activity against Israel. It has also given PLO political action a role and significance that the PLO did not enjoy before. What are the limits of this role? And how can the resistance factions agree upon and bless this role?

We do not doubt that our brothers who will meet in Damascus today have sufficient ability and farsightedness to assess their conditions and the conditions of the area, and they realize the nature of the international forces with which they seem to have entered into an overt confrontation in the Middle East in recent months.

Therefore, when we raise these questions, we are hopeful that we will receive an answer in harmony with the nature of the delicate phase that the Palestinian issue is passing through and in accord with the historic responsibility that the leaders of the Palestinian struggle are shouldering for the future of the Palestinian people and their just cause.

AMMAN DAILY ON U.S. POLICY OF LENIENCE TOWARD ISRAEL

JN180640 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jan 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headling "Loose Talk," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR deals with the U.S. explanations that Washington requested Israel to submit on the decision recently made by Israel to establish three paramilitary settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The paper adds that the U.S. explanations have been repeated after every Israeli decision to establish a new settlement, and now these explanations, which are in the form of criticism only, have become ineffective. Washington is no longer capable of persuading the Arabs that it has done its duty to protect the usurped Arab land against Judaization.

In conclusion, AD-DUSTUR says: The U.S. administration, if it is serious to confront the Israeli expansionist designs, can exercise effective pressure to restore Israel to its normal size by curbing the military and economic aid given to the Israelis. If this curbing is impossible at present for one reason or another, Washington should at least stop its unilateral efforts to conclude a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

VOL: IRAN'S UNIFIL CONTINGENT WITHDRAWS FROM SOUTH

NC180704 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The security situation continued to be disturbed last night. Sporadic shots were heard in the heart of the city and on the axes of Ash-Shayah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. However, shooting eased gradually with the break of dawn. No casualties were reported during the night.

RPG projectiles fell on the axes of the southern suburb last evening. Mortars also fell indiscriminately on the area. The Badaru area was subjected to ISHK and sniper fire up to 0400 today. Intermittent sniping on the As-Sayfi area continued throughout the night, thus requiring the citizens to be cautious in their movements along the traditional axes in the heart of the capital and the southern suburb.

According to reports from Tyre, clashes were resumed yesterday afternoon leading to tension and anxiety in the city. Two students of the Amal movement of Imam as-Sadr have reportedly thrown a bomb at the security forces, wounding three officers. The two students were killed in the incident. This followed an earlier clash between members of the Amal movement and popular security elements.

The Iranian contingent of UNIFIL withdrew from its positions in the south yesterday. A 150-man Nigerian force will arrive in Beirut today to replace them.

ADF COMMANDER DISCUSSES SECURITY SITUATION

NC171238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis chaired a security meeting at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Huss, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman, the minister of defense, Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri, and the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] commander, Col Sami al-Khatib. The director general of the Internal Security Forces staff, Brig Gen Ahmad al-Haj, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the general security situation in Lebanon was discussed in light of the results achieved through implementation of the security measures during the previous phase and the consolidation of stability and the security situation. The participants also discussed security measures for the forthcoming stage in accordance with the coordination plan drawn up by the Army Command, the ADF and the Internal Security Forces.

The participants also reviewed the outcome of the domestic and Arab contacts and consultations that have been held in this respect.

The security meeting continued until 1230. After the meeting, ADF Commander Col Sami al-Khatib made a statement in which he said:

We cannot divulge the outcome of Prime Minister al-Huss' visit to Damascus. As for today's meeting, we assessed the general security situation in light of developments over the past 2 days. We decided on procedural measures that will be put into effect on the site. It would be beneficial to put these measures into effect gradually and without any fuss or publicity.

Asked whether these measures included the reopening of some roads, Col Sami al-Khatib replied that if we wanted these measures to succeed we should not divulge any details.

Asked whether a Syrian envoy will visit Beirut tomorrow, Colonel al-Khatib said that a visit is in the offing, but he did not know when the Syrian envoy would arrive.

Asked finally about the obstacles that have prevented the reopening of the Chevrolet road up to now, Colonel al-Khatib said that the Chevrolet Road would be one of the topics that would be discussed and for which preparations would be made.

AL-HUSS, BUTRUS MAKE STATEMENTS AFTER CABINET MEETING

Al-Huss' Statement

NC171533 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] After the Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss made the following statement: The Cabinet discussed the general situation in Lebanon, particularly the negative developments that occurred recently in some axes. The Cabinet also discussed in detail the close connection between the security situation on the one hand and the political situation on the other. As I said previously, this situation calls for working simultaneously along two parallel lines: one dealing with the security situation, the other dealing with the political situation. We should work along these lines if we want to achieve the stability we all desire and not make do with superficial or circumstantial treatments that leave the situation subject to a breakdown at any moment.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: The Cabinet also discussed the steps that might be taken by the government and the alternatives at its disposal under the present political circumstances. These alternatives might serve to thaw the freeze in the current situation and extricate the country from the continuing crisis. For this purpose, it has been decided to hold a series of working meetings next week to discuss this subject in preparation for taking the necessary positions.

The prime minister was asked if there was any truth to reports that he has a plan for political detente and for rectifying the administration, to which he replied: Any political plan must be based on a unified concept by the government and must be discussed and agreed to by the Cabinet. Therefore, there is no room for talking about individual plans.

Prime Minister al-Huss was also asked about what had become of the Lebanese-Syrian dialog and if a Syrian envoy would visit Lebanon in the near future. The prime minister replied that contacts are regularly and continuously underway between both states on more than one level. These contacts were held in the past and are still being held, in view of the bilateral relations and the issues of common interest that call for continuous consultations between the officials of both fraternal countries.

Asked finally about the situation in the south and whether the Lebanese Government had requested anything specific from tomorrow's meeting of the UN Security Council, the prime minister replied: The UN Security Council meeting, which will look into the extension of the UNIFIL mandate, was the subject of discussions during the Cabinet meeting and the working meeting that preceded it.

The foreign minister briefed us on the latest information provided to him by our permanent representative at the United Nations. The defense minister, in turn, briefed us on the outcome of the talks he has held to date with the commander of the UNIFIL in the south, General Erskine, regarding the situation in the south and the plans that have been proposed to deal with it.

The prime minister added: As a result of these discussions, the foreign minister has conveyed the Lebanese Government's position to our UN delegation which in turn is providing us with the latest developments in the Security Council on the issue of the south.

Butrus' Statement

NC171635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] After today's Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said that Lebanon's position on the south and the extension of the UNIFIL mandate will become clear through the speech that will be delivered tomorrow by Lebanon's permanent representative at the Security Council.

The foreign minister added: There is no doubt that the government wants the UNIFIL to implement its mission in accordance with the spirit and aim that gave birth to Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. Lebanon also wants the UNIFIL to have all the means, such as appropriate orders and other things, to enable it to surmount any resistance it might encounter in the field and to defend itself when necessary.

AL-AS'AD RECEIVES SOVIET, KUWAITI, FRENCH AMBASSADORS

NC171427 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At 1000 today, Speaker al-As'ad met at his temporary headquarters in Qasr Mansur with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov. During the 1-hour meeting, they reviewed developments in Lebanon, particularly in the south.

When asked afterward about the nature of his meeting with Speaker al-As'ad, the Soviet ambassador replied: We discussed the general situation in the Middle East as well as the extention of the UNIFIL mandate in southern Lebanon. He added that Speaker al-As'ad proposed that the UNIFIL be converted into deterrent forces. Mr Soldatov said: In my opinion, this procedure should be left to the Security Council members.

Asked about the USSR's position in Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon, the Soviet ambassador replied: The USSR's position is firm and condemns such acts of aggression against Lebanon.

Asked finally whether Speaker al-As'ad had asked the USSR to actively participate in the UNIFIL, Ambassador Soldatov replied: We did not discuss this matter.

At 1130, Speaker al-As'ad met with the Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan. After the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador said: I had the honor of meeting Speaker Kamil al-As'ad at his request to discuss the situation in Lebanon and the south in preparation for the UN Security Council meeting.

Asked whether Speaker al-As'ad had requested that the UNIFIL be converted into deterrent forces, the Kuwaiti ambassador replied: Speaker al-As'ad asked Kuwait in its role as an Arab member of the UN Security Countil to understand the situation of the UNIFIL and help implement this Lebanese demand.

The Kuwaiti ambassador was also asked if Kuwait, as an Arab member of the Security Council had had any contacts with the Security Council members that indicate whether these members intended to convert the UNIFIL into deterrent forces. The ambassador replied: We have not learned of such an intention, and we have no further information on the subject.

Speaker al-As'ad met with French Ambassador Hubert Argod at 1200. After the meeting, the French ambassador was aksed whether there was a possibility that the French forces serving within the UNIFIL in the south would remain in their present strength or be reinforced. The French ambassador replied: Naturally, we will leave the French forces there in their present strength for another month. But later, we will reduce their ranks so that they will be equivalent to those of other UNIFIL participants. Only the logistics battalion will be left behind.

Concerning his meeting with Speaker al-As'ad, the French ambassador said: Speaker al-As'ad briefed me on the situation in the south and explained the recommendation adopted by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies yesterday and submitted to the government. Speaker al-As'ad asked me to convey this recommendation to my government and expressed hope that the French Government would adopt this recommendation at the Security Council.

VOL: ISRAELI MILITARY PLANES FLY OVER SOUTH

NC181246 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] We heard a short while ago that Israeli military planes are flying over southern Lebanon at low altitude. Some quarters have rushed to take precautions in the southern area and in other areas.

Some circles fear that this could be the prelude to a surprise action in retaliation for the explosion that took place in Jerusalem this morning, which injured 19 people.

INTENSIVE SNIPING IN SOUTHERN SUBURB OF BEIRUT

NC181252 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Jan 79 NC

[Text] There was intensive sniper fire at noon today on the axes of the southern suburb, requiring the citizens to be extremely cautious particularly in the areas of Badaru, Sami as-Sulh, At-Tahwitah, Az-Za'tar and Ar-Rina. As-Sayfi, the port and Al-Arz Street also came under similar sniper fire.

SYRIA, IRAQ DISCUSS NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS

JN171418 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 17 January--The national security committees of fraternal Syria and Iraq held their final meeting today in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Interior.

The delegations discussed security issues of importance to both countries in accordance with the National Charter for Joint Action and on the instructions of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

They also fully agreed on all issues on the working agenda, which had been discussed in a fraternal and honest spirit in the service of national security of the parties and the revolutions in both fraternal countries.

They also drafted a joint concept for national security action in the future and for the formation of a single national security office.

[Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 17 January reports that "an Iraqi-Syrian joint foreign relations subcommittee has drafted plans for coordination, cooperation and integration between the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministries. SANA has described these plans as very advanced, especially those pertaining to the question of central administration and foreign missions. SANA also said that both sides have agreed on the broad outlines and basic principles concerning the reorganization of both ministries and on the unification of working methods and communications means as a step on the road to unity between the fraternal countries."]

IRAQI DEFENSE, FOREIGN MINISTERS END VISIT

JN171722 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of the army staff; and the members of the accompanying delegation left Damascus for Baghdad at noon today.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense; Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the army staff; senior officers of the Syrian Army Command; Walid al-Khashali, Iraqi ambassador in Damascus; and members of the Iraqi Embassy staff.

CULTURE MINISTER RECEIVES IRAQI DELEGATION 17 JAN

JN171959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Dr Najah al-'Attar, minister of culture, and the Iraqi information and cultural delegation have discussed the issue of unifying legislation on culture in the fraternal countries.

During the meeting that took place between Dr Al-'Attar and the Iraqi delegation today, both sides also discussed the possibility of coordinating cultural activities. Dr al-'Attar also discussed the issue of setting up an artists federation with a delegation of Iraqi artists. This federation is to form the nucleus for a federation of Arab artists.

KHADDAM RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT DELEGATION

JN181302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 79 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received Tawfiq Sultan, In'am Ra'd and Albert Mansur of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The meeting reviewed and discussed the latest developments in fraternal Lebanon.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1950 GMT on 17 January adds that "Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member, met here this evening with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with a delegation representing the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Rafiq Abu Yunis, member of the Lebanese delegation, stated that during the meeting the three sides reviewed and exchanged views on the Lebanese and Arab situation."]

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL AL-AHMAR RECEIVES ARAB VISITORS

Receives Lebanon's Junblatt

JN181303 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in Lebanon, and the members of his delegation.

Comrade al-Ahmar welcomed brother Junblatt and his delegation and exchanged views with them on the situation in Lebanon and the Arab region and the relations between the Ba'th Party and the PSP as well as their role in unifying the nationalist forces in Lebanon. They also stressed the importance of the joint role of both parties in consolidating and unifying the nationalist ranks in Lebanon and their common desire to continue to exert positive efforts with all patriotic and nationalist forces in Lebanon to maintain security and stability in Lebanon and thus safeguard the country's unity.

Receives Jordanian Delegation

JN171952 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at noon today a delegation of the Jordanian national movement that is participating in the meetings of the Palestine National Council currently being held in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and Comrade Hasan 'Ajaj, assistant regional secretary of the unified Palestinian organization.

After welcoming the head and members of the delegation, Comrade al-Ahmar exchanged brotherly speeches with them on the current Arab situation and on the challenges the Arab nation is facing, especially at this stage after the conclusion of the treasonous Camp David agreements and the Egyptian regime's deviation toward the course of capitulation to the enemy. Al-Ahmar stressed the need to mobilize the potentials of the masses in all Arab countries to confront the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat schemes, which are directed against the Arab nation's fate and existence.

Al-Ahmar also stressed that the imperialist-Zionist onslaught, no matter how strong, will not be able to harm the Arab nation's steadfastness.

He said that the Arab nation's reply in confronting these schemes is embodied in the establishment of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation; the conclusion of the Joint National Action Charter between Syria and Iraq, which is designed to help achieve unity between the two fraternal countries; and the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad.

Comrade al-Ahmar reaffirmed Syria's and the Ba'th Party's determination to continue the struggle. He said that Syria and the Ba'th Party will continue to have confidence in the Arab masses' capability to achieve victory and enable the Arab vanguards to assume their pan-Arab responsibilities of pushing the popular struggle toward regaining the usurped Arab rights, achieving victory over the expansionist Zionist enemy, and building pan-Arab unity in the vast Arab homeland. Al-Ahmar also stressed the need to continue the steps of coordination and integration between fraternal Syria and Jordan in the service and interests of the two countries' unity.

The head and members of the Jordanian delegation praised Syria's pan-Arab role and stressed that what determines Syria's vanguard role is its principled and firm position on pan-Arab issues under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic. The Jordanian delegation praised Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and stressed that it was a direct blow to the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat objectives. They also expressed their appreciation of Syria's steadfastness and stressed that the Jordanian people stand beside their brothers in Syria so as to achieve the common objectives of the single people in both countries and to confront the Arab nation's enemies and their conspiratorial schemes.

Receives Moroccan SUPF Delegation

JN161402 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at 1100 today received a delegation of the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces [SUPF] under Comrade Abderrahman al-Yusufi. The delegation is made up of Comrades Mohamed al-Yazighi and Mahdi 'Alwi, members of the party Politburo.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and director of the Foreign Relations Office.

Both sides reviewed the continuing Arab and international political issues, particularly the Arab-Israel conflict, and also outlined the stands of both parties. Comrade al-Ahmar presented an overall political review of the Arab and international spheres and underlined the Ba'th Party's stands regarding all issues.

He also explained the fraternal relations and links between Syria and Iraq in accordance with the National Charter for Joint Action. He also spoke of the steps achieved on the unity path of both countries.

Comrade al-Yusufi in turn presented a similar explanation of the SUPF's stands.

Both sides agreed to consolidate fraternal party relations to further strengthen the pan-Arab struggle in the confrontation with imperialism, Zionism and their expansionist designs, particularly those ensuing from the Camp David accords.

MAURITANIA

SALECK: MAURITANIA MAY HONOR SAHARA REFERENDUM DECISION

LD171401 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Jan 79 pp 1, 5 LD

[Philippe Decraene interview with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Saleck in Nouakchott: "Mauritania Wants To 'Maintain a Perfect Balance Between Rabat and Algiers'"--date not specified]

[Text] [Question] How do you hope to achieve the peace which you describe as the "priority of priorities?"

[Answer] We will not tire of trying nor of making concessions to reach a peace settlement. But that is obviously not our only task even though we are still determined to make what we call the dynamics of peace succeed, as we maintained we would as soon as we came to power 10 July last year. If we were forced to take up arms again to defend our country's sovereignty we would wage war with the same conviction as our continuing search for peace.

[Question] Your recent statements regarding the future of the Mauritanian part of the former Spanish Sahara suggest that, if it proves impossible to reach a negotiated settlement satisfying all parties concerned, you envisage opening separate negotiations.

[Answer] The ideal solution is still obviously an agreement between Mauritania, Algeria, Morocco and the population of the former Spanish Sahara. If that were to prove impossible, Mauritania would reserve the right to reach an agreement with those of its partners who are prepared to do so.

[Question] You have mentioned the possibility of organizing a referendum in the Mauritanian section of the former Spanish Sahara?

[Answer] Yes, I can confirm that. However, Mauritania will continue to administer that part of the former Spanish Sahara until the populations concerned have clearly expressed a desire to exercise their right to self-determination. For our part, we are prepared to submit to the results of such a ballot.

[Question] So, if necessary, you are prepared to withdraw from that territory?

[Answer] We do not rule out the possibility of leaving if the referendum results demanded it.

[Question] What is the position on the attempted rapprochement between your country and Algeria?

[Answer] Mauritania holds a strictly equidistant position between Algeria and Morocco. We intend to keep sovereignty over our country and to maintain good relations with all our neighbors. The intentions of trying to change camp or destroy our alliance, which have been attributed to us, are totally without foundation. Although we have to develop closer cooperative relations with certain countries, as with Morocco, politically speaking we will maintain a perfect balance between Rabat and Algiers because it is of vital importance.

[Question] But you no longer have diplomatic relations with Algeria.

[Answer] If Algeria expresses a desire to reopen diplomatic relations with Mauritania, we are prepared to do so immediately and without posing any preconditions. We are already in permanent contact with the Algerians and with the POLISARIO Front, and I intend to send one of my close collaborators to Algiers very soon.

[Question] Would stopping the French intervention in Mauritania, especially suspending the Jaguar missions, probably facilitate a dialog with Algiers?

[Answer] We will not negotiate if conditions are imposed. That would be intolerable because it would violate our sovereignty. French aid will be maintained as long as France agrees and we think it useful, but I am convinced that France will be able to take decisive action as soon as Algeria has a new head of state. France, in fact, has natural ties with Algeria and the two countries intend to extend them. France has a truly historic role to play and is, moreover, directly concerned in the settlement of the Sahara problem.

[Question] Do you think that the OAU "Committee of Wise Men" can play a significant part?

[Answer] Any settlement can only be reached by the parties directly concerned. Third parties are only capable of speeding up the peace progress by giving support to those concerned. Therefore, the OAU and, moreover, the U.N. could only endorse what we ourselves agreed. That is why we are now pursuing direct contacts with POLISARIO and with Algeria and, of course, we are also constantly keeping Morocco fully informed of the progress of our efforts.

[Question] Have you obtained Morocco's agreement to a complete withdrawal of its troops from Mauritanian territory before the end of March?

[Answer] No definite timetable has been fixed. The Moroccan troops are returning home gradually as Mauritanian units are formed to replace them. Logically, if no new element arises before then, all Moroccan troops could have left Mauritania by the end of the first 3 months of 1979.

[Question] Is Senegal continuing to mediate in the West Sahara affair?

[Answer] I have met with President Senghor three times since I came to power and our two governments are in permanent liaison.

[Question] Is the renewed agitation among Mauritania's black population likely to jeopardize those relations? Some people think you intend to withdraw from the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS).

[Answer] Mauritania has never at any level envisaged withdrawing from the OMVS; membership in that organization concerns all Mauritanians, not just one ethnic group. Our team does not support any regional or tribal group. We are proud of our diversity and our unity is inviolable.

[Question] Can you assess your first 6 months in government?

[Answer] That would be premature, for we have principally taken stock of the misfortunes we inherited, but our decision to take power certainly had the prime objective of bringing a general feeling of calm to our country and our region. As for the economic situation, it is impossible to overstress just how catastrophic it is. For the period 1978-1979 alone we have had a $450 million deficit. Under those conditions, how can we be expected to draw up a budget worthy of the name?

[Question] Do you intend to try former President Ould Daddah and the members of his government still in detention?

[Answer] Investigation is underway and no official decision has yet been reached. The government has been concentrating on much more urgent problems.

[Question] Do you intend to restore power to a civilian government?

[Answer] The 10 July movement has a temporary mission. When we have achieved our objectives we will hand it over to another team.

MOROCCO

GUINEA PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE VISITS, ARRIVES IN FEZ

LD171334 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Fez, Jan 17, (MAP)--Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinea's president, on a state visit to Morocco, arrived here Tuesday from Rabat, where he visited the Mohamed V Mausoleum.

The president of Guinea was accompanied by a committee of honour presided over by M'hamed Boucetta, the Moroccan foreign minister, and composed of Driss Slaoui, the king's adviser; Mustapha Faris, minister of agriculture; Moussa Saadi, minister of energy, Taieb Belarbi, the king's ambassador to Conakry; and Suleimane Toure, Guinea's ambassador to Rabat.

Hassan Hosts Dinner in Marrakech

LD171336 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Marrakech, Jan 17 (MAP)--King Hassan of Morocco offered here Tuesday a dinner in honour of Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinea's president, on a state visit to Morocco.

The dinner was attended by Ahmed Osman, Morocco's prime minister, Dey Ould Baba, chairman of the Moroccan House of Representatives, members of the Guinean official delegation, the two countries' ambassadors and other top officials.

The Moroccan sovereign delivered a speech in which he rendered homage to the Guinean president for his actions promoting African unity.

For his part, Sekou Toure, after he had recalled the links of friendship existing between his country and Morocco, said, "You will say that Morocco is a Kingdom, and that Guinea is a Republic, however, all evolution is based on the people. It is the name of the regime which determines its values and the content of its policy.?

"In Morocco," the president added, "I have noticed that the people feel responsible, they have democratic institutions; they have also elected their representatives at the parliament; and they are always consulted on the essentials concerning their future. That is the reason why people in the streets do not show differences. The same joy is expressed on all faces. There are countries which claim to be socialist or democratic, and in which nothing is missing except democracy and sincerity."

To conclude, the Guinean president reaffirmed that Morocco couldalways count on its partner Guinea, and the king on the loyalty and the attachment of his brother Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Moroccan Commentary on Visit

LD171340 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[From the press review]

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 17 (MAP)--The Moroccan newspapers largely commented on Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure's state visit to Morocco, on Moroccan-Mauritanian relations and on the Algerian leaders' maneuvers.

The Independent Party's daily AL MAGHREB, recalling the founding of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) eighteen years ago and on Morocco's political action as well as on the military level within the framework of the OAU, said that, "through the flood of information that reached our country this week, for example, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure's official visit to Morocco at King Hassan's invitation; the Moroccan prime minister's state visit to Gabon and Cameroon; Moroccan and Tunisian agreements on commerce and industry; and Moroccan and Mauritanian meetings to increase and develop commercial exchanges, it is clear that Morocco aims to strengthen cooperation between the African states...."

"Morocco makes efforts for peace and stability in the continent but these efforts can no longer be unilateral. Our time is not for leadership, but for cooperation," concluded the daily.

The Istiqlal Party's daily L'OPINION commented "that Algerian propaganda attempts to start tension between Morocco and Mauritania and to give false interpretations to recent declarations made by Mauritanian authorities at a time when Moroccan-Mauritanian relations are excellent and the cooperation between the two countries binds them by a common future.

"All of Algeria's actions concerning the Moroccan Sahara are only a pretext for accomplishing its goal of cutting off Morocco's contact with Mauritania and the rest of Africa. The Moroccan Sahara represents the ideal territory for Algeria because of its opening on the Atlantic and towards the United States with which they have excellent relations."

WESTERN SAHARA

MAP: AOSARIO CABLES WALDHEIM ON DETENTIONS IN ALGERIA

LD171458 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Jan 17 (MAP)--The Association of the Former Spanish Saharans (AOSARIO) addressed here Tuesday a message to Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations secretary general, and to the members of the Committee of Wisemen of the Organization for Africa Unity (OUA), denouncing the sequestration of Moroccan citizens in concentration camps in Tindouf. The following are excerpts taken from that text: "The AOSARIO would like to draw your attention to numerous denunciations concerning the situation of the Moroccan Saharans sequestred in Tindouf, an imprisonment whose consequences concern the Saharans imprisoned and the future peace in this region of the Maghreb".

"Our goal is to put on guard and to accuse the Algerian authorities of the following points:

"The Saharans presently sequestered in Algerian territory are held there against their will. They have been taken as hostage by the Algerian army when they moved from their positions in the Sahara that they were occupying under the consent of Franco's government. Hundreds of young Saharans have been drafted into the "Manu Malitari" guerilla operations, after having been drugged, and their families kept hostage in the camps under Algerian military surveillance. Families are made to serve as guides in crossing mine fields for the Algerian forces. The Algerian forces requisition entire families of nomads to serve as camouflage for their movements within Moroccan territory".

"In conclusion, we consider that the actions of the Algerian forces are preventing the Saharans from having free contact and expressing themselves openly. These actions must be halted as a prelude to a just and fair solution."

ATHERTON VISIT CONTINUES; MEETING WITH BEGIN, DAYAN

TA171828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] U.S. special Ambassador Alfred Atherton held an unscheduled meeting this evening with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. At the end of the meeting, Atherton said that the meeting was held at his request but it did not come as a result of any extraordinary development in the talks. In reply to a question by our political correspondent, Atherton said he had not brought an official message from President Carter to the prime minister. However, he delivered Carter's greetings and best wishes to Begin. Tomorrow, Atherton will meet again with the Israeli staff headed by the director general of the prime ministry, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar.

JERUSALEM POST PREDICTS BREAKTHROUGH IN ATHERTON TALKS

TA180705 Jerusalem POST in English 18 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By David Landau, POST diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] The talks with U.S. special Ambassador Afred Atherton are on the verge of a breakthrough on one of the points of dispute with Egypt: Article IV of the draft peace treaty. The talks got off to what participants described as a "good start" by Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office yesterday. They are likely to last until the weekend, when Atherton and State Department legal aide Herbert Hansel will fly to Egypt.

Atherton lunched privately with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and had tea with Dayan and Prime Minister Begin at the premier's home. These meetings were devoted largely to a survey of the situation in Iran and connected developments, though Atherton did report to the premier on what he hopes to achieve during his mission and on the two brief working sessions he had held with the Israeli team, under Begin's top aide, Eli Ben-Elisar, earlier in the day.

Begin himself called in Ben-Elisar and the three legal specialists who comprise his team after the first working session, and gave them instructions which facilitiate the likely breakthrough on Article IV during the second session.

The breakthrough--predicted by the Jerusalem POST earlier this week--will probably take the form of an "interpretative note" attached to the article which will make it clear:

--That Israel accepts the principle of a mandatory review of the security arrangements in Sinai after a reasonable period of time;

--That if and when Egypt requests such a review, Israel will be obliged to agree to conduct it (though, of course, the outcome of such a review must be agreed upon by the two parties--as the article itself specifies).

Today Atherton will turn his attention to Article VI, paragraphs 2 and 5. His avowed aim is to resolve these issues too, and thereby "clear the deck" of legal-textual problems so that a subsequent, ministerial level conclave can work on the vexed issue of the "target date linkage letter" and the exchange of ambassadors.

Israel's strategy, it is reliably understood, will be to remain adamantly opposed to the "interpretative note" that Egypt demanded, and the U.S. endorsed, on Article VI (2). The article itself reads: "The parties undertake to fulfil in good faith their obligations under this treaty... independently of any instrument external to this treaty."

The Egyptian-American note seeks to maintain that "any instrument external to this treaty" does not refer to the Camp David "framework for peace" which related to the Palestinian autonomy. Israel's insistent interpretation is that "any instrument external to this treaty" does precisely refer to the Camp David "framework," otherwise, Israeli legal experts argue, the peace treaty becomes "linked" in an explicitly operative way to fulfillment of the autonomy programme--which does not depend on Israel or Egypt alone, but chiefly on the Palestinians.

There is, on the other hand, an Israeli readiness to listen to new American interpretations of Article VI (5) (the "priority of obligations" clause), and the Israeli team is expecting to hear such new interpretations from Atherton and Hansel today.

The American side, it is understood, will seek to offer definitions of "aggression" and "defensive war" and in this way to circumscribe to Israel's satisfaction the instances in which Egypt could justifiably invoke its inter-Arab defence pacts and join in a war against Israel.

The new U.S. formulations will make it clear that Israel's continued occupation of the Golan and the West Bank, so long as there is any prospect of a negotiating process' being undertaken, would not be construed as "aggression" justifying Egyptian armed intervention. Similarly and Israeli reprisal or punitive raid against the PLO in Lebanon would not, according to the American determination, be a ground for Egyptian action against Israel.

Highly placed sources here noted yesterday that the atmosphere at the talks with Atherton was incomparably better than during the Vance shuttle round a month ago, when these issues were first aired, and when Israeli and U.S. negotiators locked horns in a bitter and unproductive argument.

BOMB EXPLOSION IN JERUSALEM REPORTED

TA181017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpts] An explosion occurred in Jerusalem today in which 21 persons were slightly injured. Nineteen of them were hospitalized at the Sha'are Tzedeq Hospital and two at the Hadasah Hospital.

The explosion took place at 1050 in the 'Etz Hayim lane in the Mahane Yehuda market.

KNESSET COMMITTEE APPROVES BUDGET TO FLESH OUT SETTLEMENTS

TA171559 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[From the IDF Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] After several postponements the Knesset Finance Committee today approved a budget of over 700 million pounds to flesh out the settlements in the territories and to pave a road across Samaria. Our correspondent for economic affairs in Jerusalem, Gabi Kessler, reports:

[Kessler--begin recording] The Finance Committee approved a budget of 60 million pounds to pave a road across Samaria. The road for which financing has been approved is 6 km long between Mardah and Tapu'ah, and in the end, the total length of the road will be 35 km.

The Alinement members of the committee abstained in the vote on financing the building of the road across Samaria, maintaining that they had not received satisfactory explanations on the need for the road from a security point of view.

After the vote on the paving of the road, the committee went on to discuss the budget to flesh out the settlements. Some 402 million pounds were allocated to add 390 housing units in the Jordan Valley, Gush 'Ezyon, the Golan Heights, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Construction in Samaria was approved by a Likud majority over the opposition of the Alinement and, as for the other locations, construction was approved by all members of the committee.

A further 280 million pounds was approved today by the finance committee for the construction of the settlements Qarne Shomron, Hares and Giv'on, which are in Samaria. In this instance, the budget also was approved over the Alinement's opposition.

All in all, over 500 million pounds was allocated for the fleshing out of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and about 200 million pounds was allocated for the fleshing out of the settlements in the other territories.

It is interesting to point out that the Likud, which feared the outcome of the vote, took pains to involve alternates in the vote in the place of Knesset members on the committee who are now abroad. MK Avraham Melamed of MAFDAL, who opposed the fleshing out of the settlements in Samaria, absented himself from the vote. But the MAFDAL put MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir in his place and he, of course, voted in favor of the fleshing out. [end recording]

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE DECIDES AGAINST GIVING BACK ARAB VILLAGES

TA171338 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The ministerial committee for the matter of Iqrit and Kefar Bar'am has recommended that the Cabinet not return those uprooted from these villages to their homes. This was revealed today by the minister of agriculture to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. The ministerial committee made this decision 4 months ago, but its decision was kept secret up to today. Our correspondent Razi Barqay says that only one minister on the committee, the minister of justice, supported returning uprooted people to their homes. The minister of agriculture voted against him, as did the former minister of industry, Yiga'el Horowitz. The minister of religion abstained from voting and Minister Gid'on Pat was abroad at the time. The committee's recommendations will be discussed at one of the upcoming Cabinet sessions.

JERUSALEM REACTS TO CRITICISM OF NAHAL FOOTHOLDS

TA170918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] This morning Jerusalem reacted with amazement to the fact that the U.S. administration has expressed anger at the decision to establish three Nahal footholds in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Gaza Strip. A Jerusalem source told our political correspondent that the U.S. position is not understandable, since the reference is to military footholds and not to permanent settlements. The U.S. administration knows the Israeli Government's position, that the period of freeze on settlement has passed and is over, particularly as the reference is to establishing footholds in areas where there was also settlement in the time of the previous governments and, on this matter, the source emphasized, there is broad agreement in Israel.

It was reported from Washington this morning that Jimmy Carter had sent a letter of protest to Menahem Begin on this matter. The letter has not yet reached Jerusalem.

DAYAN HAS RESERVATIONS ON WAY NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONDUCTED

TA171129 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Article by Dalya Shehori]

[Text] It was unofficially learned yesterday that the reasons for placing the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, at the head of the team for the talks with Ambassador Alfred Atherton and for cutting the representation of the Foreign Ministry in the Israeli team are Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's reservations concerning the way the negotiations are being conducted. It is not inconceivable that Dayan would have wanted the team to be given a certain freedom of maneuvering and that Israel should also take advantage of the talks beginning today to bring up proposals, not just listen and consider.

It is known that in a talk Dayan and Begin held on Sunday before the Cabinet session, Dayan himself proposed the composition of the team or the principle of its composition. However, it is possible that Dayan proposed this composition not out of agreement and to make recommendations but after he realized that the prime minister did not intend to use the talks with Atherton as a lever for advancing the negotiations by means of showing an actively flexible Israeli approach.

It would have been natural for the Israeli team to have been headed by the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciehanover, and there would have been no reason to appoint only legal experts as the other three team members, and two have no experience in political negotiations (the government's legal adviser, Professor Zamir, and the expert on international law, Prof Ruth Lapidot of the Hebrew University). The only person in the team who has consistently participated in most of the stages of the negotiations is the legal advisor to the foreign minister, Dr Me'ir Rosenne.

In the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry last night official spokesmen claimed, in reply to questions, that concentrating the contacts with Atherton in the hands of the prime minister's office was agreed upon and coordinated between the prime minister and the foreign minister. They also said that there should be no complaints about the appointment of Dr Ben-Elisar as head of the team, since Dr Ben-Elisar had previously been the head of the first Israeli delegation to Cairo. Other elements pointed out, as opposed to this, that the claim regarding Dr Ben-Elisar's political experience was purely formal.

It should be noted that, at the last Cabinet session, dissatisfaction was noticeable in Dayan's remarks on the situation prevailing in the negotiations and at the way in which the government has been dealing with the issue recently. Dayan said that a more vigorous effort should be made to advance the negotiations and when he spoke about the talks with Atherton, he supported giving a certain freedom of maneuver to the Israeli team, to make proposals which would require the Cabinet's approval. The prime minister rejected such a possibility and Dayan gave way to Begin's views.

It will be noted that on Sunday the Cabinet is due to hold a political debate at the suggestion of Minister Burg, a suggestion which the prime minister has accepted. It therefore appears that, from Dayan's viewpoint, the problem is not what Israel has to decide and do from Sunday onward, but what can Israel do this week, while the talks with Atherton are being held.

It is possible that Dayan would be prepared to conduct the deliberations with the U.S. delegation on most of the issues in which there is no agreement, including the problem of the "target date" for the autonomy. (Dayan at one time agreed that the target date should be the end of December 1979, but he retreated from this view after the prime minister did not agree with it. However, when he became aware of the prime minister's approach, he proposed establishing a primarily technical team in line with the prime minister's intentions.

The Israeli negotiating team met yesterday in the prime minister's office for a 1-hour preparatory meeting on the talks, which begin this morning. Governmental sources pointed out last night that the line taken by the team will be to first listen to what the U.S. delegation has to say.

At 1000 the first meeting will take place between the two teams. At noon Atherton has been invited by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for a working luncheon. As far as can be seen, there will be another meeting between the teams this afternoon. At that meeting the agenda for the continuation of the deliberations will be decided upon.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DISCUSSES POLITICAL AFFAIRS

TA172110 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Tuvya Sa'ar, Elimelekh Ram and Yig'al Goren interview with Israeli Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon in the television studio on the weekly Moqed Program--live]

[Excerpt] [Sa'ar] Mr Sharon, President Carter fiercely protested the plan to establish three footholds in the Jordan Valley and in the Gaza Strip. The question I want to ask you is whether we should now add new settlements beyond the green line?

[Sharon] In my opinion, absolutely yes. First, this does not constitute any deviation from the Cabinet's announcement. At the time, the prime minister notified President Carter that there would be a 3-month freeze on new settlement activity. These months have passed. It was said that during these 3 months there would be only fleshing-out or the addition of people. This has been done. There is no reason why we cannot continue establishing settlements in those places important to Israel's security.

[Ram] Mr Sharon, do you accept the position of the Israeli Cabinet with regard to the future of Judaea and Samaria?

[Sharon] I think that the autonomy plan can be very good, but it can also be a deadly trap. The autonomy plan depends on what we will do in the coming years. There are things that we must do in Judaea and Samaria in order to live safely. After all, peace is not an abstract term. The aim of peace is to effect security. I am not speaking of wishful thinking here. I am not even talking about what is desirable. I am talking about the most absolutely necessary things. As far as we are concerned, I do not believe that the autonomy plan can be implemented the way the prime minister presented it the first time.

[Ram] In your opinion, what is absolutely necesary for us to implement the plan and to live in peace with the residents of the autonomy?

[Sharon] Several things are absolutely necessary for the existence of the autonomy. First, there should be an Israeli military deployment that will solve Israel's strategic problems on the eastern front. The military deployment should also meet the needs of Jewish life within the autonomy. In other words, there should be a military deployment that will allow continuity among those Jewish settlements that exist in those places where we must have them. There should be a deployment that will make possible the existence of safe traffic axes from the coastal plain to those places in Judaea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley which we should hold. For the autonomy to exist, it is absolutely necessary that Israel be in charge of security matters regarding everything pertaining to anti-terrorist combat. In the long run, it is possible that, if we reach a state of a true peace--i.e., of no danger of war, of the absence of terrorist and violent acts--I believe that Israel itself will be interested in limiting the security measures as much as possible.

[Sa'ar] And if all these conditions are not fulfilled, will the autonomy turn into a deadly trap, as you have previously said?

[Sharon] I would like to add another condition. In certain places where the situation requires it, Israel should have the option to settle freely in these places. I say this, for example, just as I would say that there are places where we can allow the Arab population to take steps which are beyond those considered today. For instance, the coastal strip--in its most densely populated section, in Hasharon--has today turned into a strip no wider than 8-9 km. Now, if we think that to create depth and to hold onto several strategically important points which control to coastal strip, we have to establish settlements, then we should reserve the freedom to settle. I am not speaking of family reunions here. I am talking about real settlement. On the other hand--and here I am expressing my own view because this, as you well know, has not yet been discussed in the Cabinet--if we are faced with the question of whether to allow the Arabs in Nabulus, to take in refugees or to allow them to settle in those areas not vital to us, we can, in my opinion, surely reach an agreement on this. There are other issues. There is the water issue. It should be remembered that a third of Israel's water reserves is located in Judaea and Samaria. In other words, it is completely inconceivable to me that anyone would deprive the Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria of water. However, there must be one, common [water] authority. It is impossible for us to reach a situation in which there will be a danger of drought in Israel. In other words, if we succeed in clarifying and working out several points--and it is important to do so--I believe that we will then be able to live properly within the framework of the autonomy.

[Goren] Sir, you demand a debate on the nature of the autonomy even before a peace treaty is signed with the Egyptians. Why not sign the treaty first and then bargain with the Egyptians over the nature of the autonomy?

[Sharon] I do not now believe that it is possible to sign an agreement and shove things under the rug. In fact, we are discussing the autonomy problems with the Egyptians today. The discussion with the Egyptians is on the autonomy problems today, on the problems of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. I do not say that the signing of the treaty should be delayed. On the contrary, I would have made every effort possible to speed up the signing of the treaty and on this matter I would not have relied only on contacts via the Americans. I would have made every effort to establish direct contacts in addition to the contacts through the United States. I think that on this subject we could do more than we are actually doing. However, it should be understood that the discussion of the autonomy issue is very complex, very complicated, and it is impossible [for us not to discuss and clarify things] for ourselves at least. My demand today is not to discuss this matter with the Egyptians. My demand is that the Israeli Government first discuss this and decide on what all aspects of the autonomy mean to it.

It may be worthwhile to note here that while we are struggling over whether to discuss the autonomy issue and a public argument is raging around this, the Americans are maintaining contacts behind our backs with the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria, and it is interesting that these are with circles close to the PLO and involve the issue of the autonomy. The American consul and his deputy in Jerusalem maintain continual contacts not only on general issues, but even on specific issues. I wonder why we are desisting from discussing a problem upon which our whole future existence depends while before our eyes the Americans are conducting negotiations on substantive issues. Therefore, in my opinion, because of the importance of the question, we should discuss this. I would like to add a small thing here: In my opinion, a discussion on autonomy does not make the negotiations more difficult. On the contrary, I think it makes things easier. If I, as a Cabinet member, precisely knew what Israel means when it talks of autonomy, it is most probably that I would be prepared to be flexible on other issues. If I knew, for example, that we would be able to continue settling in certain areas that I deem vital to the existence and security of Israel, if I knew that we could deploy the army the way we wanted, if I knew that we could build the traffic axes we need and if I were sure of the water issue, it could well be that the target date [previous two words in English] would have seemed less important to me. Today it is of crucial importance to me.

[Goren] Do I understand from this that today the Israeli Government does not know what the autonomy is?

[Sharon] I wouldn't say that the government doesn't know--that is going too far.

[Goren] You have just said that you yourself don't know all the details.

[Sharon] The government has a basic autonomy plan. However, this plan contains 26 clauses, as you know, and it contains the foundations of the autonomy. However, on each of these clauses we have to elaborate a long list of issues--where to settle, where not to settle; where to pave roads, where not to pave roads, etc. I repeat, this is not aimed at making things difficult or at disrupting the negotiations. In my opinion, it is aimed at providing an opportunity for manifesting greater flexibility in conducting the negotiations.

[Sa'ar] Mr Sharon, I would like to go back to the issue of the United States. You spoke of the U.S. role in the autonomy. Over and above all this, do I understand from your remarks that you would prefer direct negotiations without U.S. mediation?

[Sharon] I do not think that it is possible to conduct direct negotiations without some form of U S. mediation. However, I don't think that we should only conduct negotiations via the United States. What has happened here? In fact, the Americans are not mediators. The Americans have become the managers of the negotiations. The negotiations are being conducted on American documents and I would say that here the Americans are adopting a position that surpasses their being mediators. They are conducting the negotiations. Of course, we cannot do without American help, but we must also try to adopt a direct method. I would also say here that the United States is the greatest power in the world, the greatest from a military and economic point of view. This does not necessarily mean that it has a monopoly on political wisdom. We have ssen what has happened in the world in recent years and I would propose that we rely more on ourselves. Were you to ask me what I would do, I would make every effort to create direct contacts. For example, if you were to ask me for specifics, I would tell you that I would instruct someone--for example, someone who has dealt at length with negotiations, such as Maj Gan Avraham Tamir, assistant to the minister of defense for national security--I would create contacts and send him to Egypt at once. There should be direct talks parallel to the talk talks with Atherton.

[Ram] Mr Sharon, permit me to return to your proposal that the government discuss the nature of the autonomy. Do you believe that with the government's present coalition structure it is relatively easy to achieve agreement on the nature of the autonomy?

[Sharon] It is not easy to achieve anything.

[Ram] In your opinion, is this government capable of making a decision of the issue?

[Sharon] Certainly. The government can reach a decision. I think that, despite all the criticism of the government, if we look back we see that the government has made decisions on many issues despite the difficulties that it faced. I repeat, this is not an easy decision, but one can make a decision. At least we must ponder the issue.

[Sa'ar] Mr Sharon, let us talk about another issue. It was made public today that a special ministerial committee, which you headed, decided 4 months ago not to allow the return of the uprooted people of Iqrit and Bar'am, in opposition to the view of the prime minister, who supports their return. Why can't they return?

[Sharon] First, by appointing a ministerial committee the prime minister gave it the right to decide and, in his remarks, the prime minister said that, while that was his position, the matter required a government decision. The committee met on several occasions. Everyone came and gave testimony--the residents of the villages, members of Kibbutzim and Moshavs in the region, local councils, the Ministry of the Interior, the security services and the defense establishment. Testimony was heard in both directions and I admit that after lengthy and difficult considerations we arrived at that conclusion. We submitted our conclusions to the government. As was clear from the outset, the government will have to discuss this issue. I assume that the government will discuss this as soon as it has time.

[Sa'ar] Are you not prepared to say why you won't allow them to return. Can you tell us? Is this a security issue?

[Sharon] I think that it would be unsuitable for me to speak on the television prior to bringing this to the attention of the government.

[Sa'ar] You told us what you thought about the nature of the autonomy prior to this being brought to the attention of the government.

[Sharon] Believe me, what I said on the nature of the autonomy I have said to the government on dozens of occasions. These things have also been made public. In any case, they are no secret. Had they not been made public, I assume that I would not be speaking about them here. However, this [the return of the uprooted people from Iqrit and Bar'am] is an issue which I have not yet presented to the government. Contrary to previous governments, this government finds itself under ceaseless time pressures. There are messages and appeals and pressures and demands, and it cannot yet find the time. I assume that it will find the time. In my opinion, the government is not using a tactic, it simply lacks time. The government will deliberate and when it does it will make its decisions.

[Goren] With your permission, sir, I will go back to the issue of Judaea and Samaria. In the past year you have said on several occasions that you alone carry the burden of establishing settlements. Do I understand from this that other ministers are not helping you in this operation?

[Sharon] In the government, no man carries a burden on his own. There is no single man carrying any burden. In addition to being minister of agriculture, which is my major occupation, I was appointed chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs and it is in this capacity that I deal with settlement. The major part of the burden falls on my shoulders. That is true, but the decisions are not made by me. The decisions are made by the government. There has been no settlement activity during the past year which was not decided upon by the government--sometimes very difficult decisions, be they decisions on timing, location or pace of settlement. At the same time, given the government's desire and its view of the importance of settlement, I would not say under any circumstances that the issue has become a central national issue.

[Goren] Why?

[Sharon] This is tied in with a long list of things: perhaps the pressure under which the government finds itself, its involvement in political issues, the ceaseless economic difficulties. Perhaps not all ministers feel the same way I do. I feel that the sand in the political hourglass is running out. It is possible that others are under more pressure as the result of issues concerning their ministries. To conclude, this is not a one man operation. But, at the same time and to my regret, it has not become the State of Israel's national goal as it should have become, with all resources being concentrated on this effort. Had this happened, I think that we would be saving ourselves a lot of problems in the future.

[Ram] Let us say that the government decides on major settlement. In your opinion, are there sufficient settlers for such an operation?

[Sharon] We are in a situation in which 57 settlements have been established over the past 2 years--25 settlements were established in 1977, and 32 settlements were established last year.

[Ram] How many people live in each settlement?

[Sharon] It depends.

[Ram] Perhaps an average?

[Sharon] It is impossible to give an average. The direction of ceaseless settlers is toward the Gush Emunim settlements. Look at Hares in Samaria. In my opinion, it will become the central city of Samaria. This will take time. We know in Israel that it takes years to establish a city. I assume that, in the long run, this will be a city with a population of 50,000. The first people arrived there on 28 May 1978. The first families arrived in August. There are over 500 people there today. In Qaddum there are about 500. In 'Ofra there are about 310. Thus, in these settlements, in every house that is built, even before water and electricity have been introduced, people are moving in and there is no doubt that in this wave of people moving to Samaria we see a national motivation par excellence and a pioneering, idealist stream--even if it rebels against the government--and one cannot ignore that.

[Goren] Economic motivation as well?

[Sharon] It is very difficult today to say that there is economic motivation because living conditions are so bad that I do not think that this is the factor that leads members of Gush Emunim to come to settle. In other places this is usually the case. If we talk about an agricultural settlement, in the first stage we bring about 30 families and, over time, we bring more. Today we find ourselves in a period with a large wave of people desiring to settle. This has always come in waves in the State of Israel. We had such a wave in the 1930's. We had such a wave in the 1950's--mainly the settlement of new immigrants. We have a new wave today. I want you to know that we have 53 settlement nuclei which are living in temporary locations.

[Sa'ar] Has Gush Emunim been promised that an urban settlement will be established in the region of Nabulus, Mr Sharon?

[Sharon] The government's decision contained four clauses. First of all, there is the decision of 23 October 1977. This decision was not implemented for several reasons--political pressures, other priorities.

[Sa'ar] Was this promised or was this not promised, that was the question?

[Sharon] A few days ago, about 2 weeks ago, the government discussed the issue and made the following decision: The first part was that we would recognize the Elon More nucleus as a candidate for settlement as soon as possible. The second part was that this would be done in line with the timing and location decided upon by the government. The third part was that as far as is possible, consideration would be given to the desires of the members of the nucleus with respect to the location of the settlement. The fourth part was that they must return home [from their roadside demonstration]. This is the exact statement I made as requested by the government to the members of the nucleus.

[Goren] The next day they claimed that within 2 months--so they had been promised--they would be able to break ground. Are they saying things that are untrue?

[Sharon] Under no circumstances did I say that they were not speaking the truth. I think that this is a wonderful nucleus and I am sure that it will break ground, and in order to put a nucleus on the ground we have to find a location and solve the problem of ownership of the land. There is a long list of other problems. These things take time. As the government said, this will be done as soon as possible in accordance with the government's decisions.

[Ram] Even if the foreign minister said that this is a silly and unwise decision?

[Sharon] I do not want to discuss what the foreign minister said. I do not know to what he was referring.

[Ram] To a city near Nabulus.

[Sharon] I did not say that it had been decided to establish a city near Nabulus. I said that there was a decision to establish a settlement at a place to be decided upon--which has been decided upon--a few kilometers east of Nabulus. It is of major defense and topographical importance. It is north of the road crossing Samaria, which has to connect the settlements of the Jordan Valley with the coastal plain and, in accordance with the government's decision, there will be a settlement there.

INTERIOR MINISTER BURG SEES TIME FOR REASSESSMENT

TA172158 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2120 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Haifa 17 Jan--Israel must take advantage of the break in the peace talks to examine the meaning of the war-like declarations coming out of Cairo from time to time and also to conduct a constructive dialog with the United States in order to examine treaties and promises in view of what has recently happened in Formosa and Iran. This was said on Wednesday by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg at a meeting of hundreds of civil guard volunteers that took place in the auditorium on Mount Carmel in Haifa.

The minister said that we have to remember that attacks are still being made against us and that Jerusalem is the target area of attacks and assassination attempts by terrorists who wish to spread destruction and, at the same time, achieve the political aim of disrupting the relations that have been developing between the Arab and Jewish residents of the city.

The terrorists are attempting to prove that the Cairo, Washington and Jerusalem talks are pointless as long as Israel refuses to negotiate with murderers whose aim is to spread fear, destruction and political terror. In view of all this, we must be vigilant and deployed because there is a connection between the political peace negotiations and the terrorists' plots. The interior minister pointed out that we should take advantage of the break in the political negotiations to make a reassessment, especially to conduct a close examination of Egyptian intentions. We should resume talks with them on the concept of how the two nations will live together in the region.

MA'ARIV: JERUSALEM ANGERED BY U.S. 'INTERFERENCE'

TA171704 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jan 79 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpts] Dismay was expressed in Jerusalem this morning about the way the United States chose to react to the Cabinet decision to set up three Nahal footholds in Judaea and Samaria. "This is far-reaching interference"--this is the way a Cabinet source this morning described Washington's reaction, which had been made public by authorized administration spokesmen.

The source added: This kind of protest by the administration, particularly on the eve of the talks with special Ambassador Alfred Atherton, will make the reaching of an understanding on the controversial issues more difficult.

Anger in Jerusalem is great because if the administration had wanted to determine what was behind the reports on the setting up of the Nahal footholds rather than to "scold" Israel, it could have found better ways for that purpose by using customary diplomatic channels.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that Ambassador Atherton will have a private talk with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan today, and this is likely to be a better opportunity for obtaining clarifications than a public protest that is unlikely to improve the atmosphere of the negotiations. This was emphasized by authoritative political circles in Jerusalem.

People in charge of settlement projects in Judaea and Samaria said this morning that it is particularly the strengthening of the Israeli foothold in Judaea and Samaria that is likely to prevent frictions in the future, and hence there is no basis for the U.S. assertion that settlements in the territories are, as it were, liable to harm the peace negotiations.

Cabinet members (at this stage they preferred to remain anonymous) to whom we talked this morning reacted by saying that, even if Israel should run into difficulties as a result of the decision to set up Nahal settlements in Judaea and Samaria, this Zionist and pioneering action that stems from security considerations is to be preferred. It may be assumed that the subject of the U.S. protest will be broached in the talks between Dayan and Atherton today. Referring to the reports from the United States, according to which an official protest has been communicated to Jerusalem (the reports this morning mentioned a letter from President Carter to Prime Minister Begin), sources in the Foreign Office and in the prime minister's office said: "We have received nothing so far."

It was the United States which asked Israel that the talks opening today with special Ambassador Alfred Atherton to seek ways to resume the negotiations be conducted at a lower level rather than on a ministerial level as was customary in the past.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office and in the Foreign Office said this morning that the reports about an alleged controversy between the prime minister and the foreign minister concerning the substance of the talks were unfounded.

Cabinet circles in Jerusalem said this morning before the opening of the talks that Israel would not retreat from its positions and that it would adhere to the Cabinet resolutions which rejected any target date for the autonomy and interpretations liable to empty Article VI of the peace treaty of its meaning.

DAVAR COMMENTS ON U.S.-EGYPTIAN ALLIANCE

TA171238 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 79 pp 7, 11 TA

[Hagay Eshed commentary: "A Separate Agreement: The USA-Egypt"]

[Text] It becomes clear day by day that the U.S.-Egyptian alliance is growing stronger, and anyone watching it closely feels almost like a peeping Tom observing two lovers.

It emerges ever more clearly that the Camp David agreements were primarily a U.S.-Egyptian agreement, with Israel only one of its clauses--no more and no less. An Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement that is due to be signed soon will be chiefly a U.S.-Egyptian agreement, its main task being to serve as a lever for more U.S. aid to Egypt at the expense of the aid to Israel, since the U.S. treasury chest is not limitless.

Israel before Camp David--and even more so before As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem--was an obstacle and competitor to Egypt in receiving U.S. aid on every level, be it political, economic or military. For Egypt,As-Sadat's visit in Jerusalem and the peace agreement with Israel were the price and means of achieving the reward--As-Sadat's real target--to become the chief U.S. ally in the Middle East by driving a wedge between the United States and Israel and be relegating Israel to the lowest possible level on the U.S. scale of priorities.

If one observes from this viewpoint the developments in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, one is likely to understand them better and even draw more correct conclusions concerning the negotiations and the peace agreement. The turning point in Egypt's policy did not have peace with Israel as its main objective, but rather an Egyptian withdrawal from Soviet orientation toward a U.S. orientation, the price for which was an Egyptian reconciliation with Israel's existence. Egypt requires U.S. economic and military aid much more than it needs a normalization per se in its relations with Israel. How can such a normalization benefit Egypt? By almost nothing. Egypt needs a peace agreement with Israel not so much for the agreement itself, but rather to gain the support of U.S. public opinion and to gain the desired U.S. aid.

The temporary delay in achieving the peace agreement with Israel is not harming Egypt at all. The more demands Egypt raises in the negotiations with Israel, the better it succeeds in presenting Israel as guilty of rejecting the peace agreement due to petty obstinacy. Egypt will substantiate this claim by citing the "Peace Now" Movement and its renewed demonstrations to anyone who is still not convinced. The signing of the peace agreement and the implementation of its first stage will give Egypt the full benefit it is likely to gain from its policy of peace. The signing of the agreement with Israel will remove the last obstacle--in public opinion and Congress--from extensive U.S. aid to Egypt. The Israeli withdrawal from the Gulf of Suez will give Egypt all the oil wells, which also happen to be an important source of income. Egypt will be able to devote itself fully to the development of a transportation and communication infrastructure, without which large-scale investment in commerce and industry is impossible.

The development of infrastructure is a matter of several years, not merely a year. Egypt will be able to reap the fruit of the peace agreement with Israel and of its first stage only after 5 years, at best. From that viewpoint Egypt will be better off with a freezing of the peace agreement with Israel after the conclusion of its first stage--a withdrawal from half the Sinai Peninsula without exchanging ambassadors. Egypt will be better off in everything concerning its inter-Arab relations, since the first stage does not include all the normalization trappings of a peace with Israel under U.S. auspices, which are most provocative from a Soviet and Arab viewpoint. It might also be easier for the United States to halt at the end of the first year after the signing of the agreement. The U.S. viewpoint can see nothing beneficial in provoking the Soviet Union by trying to push it out of Syria and Iraq and by attempting to minimize its influence in the PLO. On the other hand, it would benefit the United States if it waited until the dust settles after the earthquake in Iran and in its vicinity.

The realization of the U.S. alliance with Egypt should be regarded as a sufficiently satisfactory achievement and, as we mentioned earlier, it cannot be accomplished in less than 5 years. During that period Egypt faces the risk of an insurgency along the lines of the Iranian "Red and black alliance." Fanatical Islam and social bitterness also may join forces in Egypt, toppling As-Sadat, his peace policy and the dependence on the United States. The overthrow of As-Sadat will doubtlessly be followed by the downfall of present Saudi regime and the United States must be more wary than in the past of an adventurous policy of biting off more than it can chew.

The first stage of the peace agreement is by its very nature a separate U.S.-Egyptian agreement and as such it has a chance to stand on its own legs and face only minimal opposition. Rather than a full peace with Israel, it represents a full alliance between the United States and Egypt. After that alliance materializes and bears fruit, a solid (U.S.-Egyptian) foundation will perhaps be created on which an edifice of peace between Egypt and Israel may be built. It cannot happen before that, however.

Israel also stands to gain something from stopping after the first stage of the peace agreement is implemented. It will be paying a steep price for the first stage of the agreement--ceding the oil and the existing defense line--in return for mere Egyptian lip service about peace, a peace that is to be no more than a partial settlement in a nicer wrapping.

Israel will receive less U.S. aid, occupying second place behind Egypt in the U.S. foreign aid budget, but until it becomes clear whether Egypt has managed to emerge from its rehabilitation period unscathed and whether it has been sufficiently strengthened by its alliance with the United States, Israel will not have to evacuate the Rafah approaches settlements and it will be able to postpone for several years the transfer of the airfields and IDF bases from Sinai to the Negev.

Meanwhile, the autonomy according to Camp David is very different from the autonomy conceived in the original peace plan of Menahem begin. The way it looks now, the autonomy plan will hardly satisfy any of the potential partners--Israel, Jordan, Egypt or the Palestinians themselves.

The conclusion emerging from everything that has been said above is that the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement is possible and worthwhile only if its first stage is implemented. After that, a period of transition and testing will begin, the success of which depends on the consent of other who are not signatory to the agreement--the Palestinians and all their supporters, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and even the Soviet Union (whose approval depends on implementation of Security Council Resolution 338, according to the Camp David agreements). The transition to the second stage is the most complicated and dangerous for every party involved.

The peace agreement with Egypt must be signed with the clear understanding that only the first stage of the agreement will be implemented and that every undertaking included in it must receive its appropriate final and committing formulation. For example, the timetable of the second stage must be more open and flexible than it is now. Otherwise, there will be no way to avoid a violation of the agreement after its first birthday.

TEHRAN ANNOUNCES DISMISSAL OF NINE AMBASSADORS

LD171742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon announced that the missions of nine Iranian ambassadors in foreign countries have been terminated. According to this announcement, the assignment of certain Iranian ambassadors to missions abroad was contrary to the provisions of the legal constitution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the law on the renewal of the residence of government officials abroad. Also, the continuation of the service of a certain number of these people has been deemed to be inexpedient. Therefore their missions have been terminated as of today. These rules will soon be applied to other ministry officials abroad who come under the said regulations.

The names of the ambassadors are as follows: Mr Parviz Razi in London; Mr Bahram Bahrami in Paris; Mr Gholam Reza Tajbakhsh in New Delhi; General Ali Mo'tazed in Damascus; Mr Parviz 'Adl in Brasilia; Mr Sho'a'oddin Shafa in Rome; Mr Fereydun Hoveyda at the United Nations; Mr Khosrow Akmal, who was previously recalled from Camberra; and Mr Ardashir Zahedi in Washington, who resigned previously.

AYATOLLAH SHARI'AT-MADARI WARNS AGAINST INCITEMENT

LD171358 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 17 January carries a recording of a statement issued by Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari [date not given] that calls upon Muslim Iranians to beware of incitement by "mysterious" and unknown instigators who attempt to set them against those presumed to be associated with the oppression exercised in the past, and stresses that any action taken by a Muslim must be in accord with Islamic norms of justice and that any punishment due to any individual must be authorized by the competent religious authorities. The statement warns against any action that might lead to innocent women and children becoming destitute or losing their lives. The ayatollah notes that those who have "oppressed" and done injustice to the Iranian people and those who have "riddled our dear children with bullets" should be treated separately from others. These people should certainly be made known to religious authorities "so that their punishment and just deserts can be decided on," the statement says.

The statement goes on to say: "The Iranian people should respect the Iranian Army and treat it with kindness and fraternity," adding that "of course, those who have opened fire on the people should be treated separately." The Iranian Army should, in return, realize that its duty is "solely to defend the country, to confront Iran's foreign enemies and to safeguard the borders. The army should not open fire on its Muslim compatriots," the statement says. The ayatollah also calls on the people to help those who have suffered in recent events in the country.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNOR GENERAL ON INCIDENTS IN AHVAZ

LD171848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Today, as happened yesterday afternoon, quiet demonstrations took place in Tehran and in a number of cities. In certain places the squares of Tehran were damaged by demonstrators, but in all these instances today no clashes took place between the security forces and the demonstrators.

Only from Ahvaz has a report reached us that clashes took place between demonstrators and the military. The Tehran evening paper ETTELA'AT reported that these clashes were extensive and that an unknown number of people were killed and wounded.

Lieutenant General Ja'farian, governor general of Khuzestan, in an interview with Bahman Shahrokhzadeh, correspondent of the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization in Ahvaz, said: [begin recording]

[Ja'farian] From the moment the radio reported the trip abroad by the shahanshah aryamehr at 1400 yesterday the officers, NCO's, weapons attendants and troops of the imperial armed forces in Khuzestan have been greatly saddened. As a result, there were some reactions in Ahvaz by a number of opportunists who want to plunge our dear country into anarchy and at the appropriate time take advantage of the situation for their own gain and that of foreigners. Since the early hours of this morning, these people passed along the avenue around the garrison in their care and began throwing stones at military personnel and provoking them. A number of young NCO's and soldiers, who were naturally upset by the shahanshah aryamehr's trip, went to the avenues around the garrison and, as a result of stone-throwing and even shooting, one of the demonstrators and four soldiers were wounded.

I was leaving for Tehran this morning in order to meet his excellency the prime minister, to inform him of the province's administrative difficulties and to receive orders, when I was forced to cancel my trip to Tehran in order to prevent disturbances. I then went to the garrison and talked with the NCO's and soldiers and made them realize that opportunists are planning such incidents in order to bring them into a confrontation with their Iranian brothers and make use of these incidents to further their own ends. We are all Muslims and followers of the Koran and the holy Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah--may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion--and we should not have the least difference with each other, we should endeavor to save our dear realm from this frightful vortex. As governor general and a military commander I want to carry out, with complete order, my daily educational [as heard] programs. The military governor of Ahvaz will directly prosecute the adventurists and deal with them in accordance with the law and regulations. And the army, in accordance with the command of its shahanshah, should obey the lawful government of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar so that a chasm--God forbid--may not be brought about between the army and the zealous, patriotic Iranian people.

[Question] Was anyone injured during today's demonstrations?

[Answer] As I have pointed out, because there were armed people among the demonstrators, four soldiers were wounded and one civilian was wounded. The civilian's condition is satisfactory and he is now in a hospital.

[Question] You intended to travel to Tehran today. Please tell us what you were going to talk about in Tehran with his excellency the prime minister?

[Answer] I was going to talk about the wheat carried by three ships into Bandar-e Shahpur with a total capacity of 120,000 tons; one ship has berthed and two ships are in anchorage. As the strikes continue the wheat concerned has not been unloaded and should it still not be unloaded by 25 January there is a possibility that a shortage of wheat will be noticeably felt on a countrywide level. In the meantime, a number of ships laden with foodstuffs have arrived in Bandar-e Shahpur which should also be unloaded, and this in itself has created a problem. I would have discussed these problems with his excellency the prime minister. I was to meet his excellency the prime minister on Thursday, tomorrow, but because I was forced to remain in Ahvaz, I received instructions from him by telephone for the unloading of the wheat and the ships carrying foodstuffs. [end recording]

AFP Report

TA171902 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 17 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (AFP)--Five people--four soldiers and one civilian--were wounded in Ahvaz, in the western province of Khuzestan, during clashes between demonstrators and security forces last night and this morning, the provincial governor announced today.

Other sources spoke of one person dead and 22 others wounded while unconfirmed reports circulating here said scores of people had been killed in the clashes.

TEHRAN REPORTS SIX KILLED IN DEZFUL DEMONSTRATION

LD181102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the chief of the Supreme Commander's Staff announced today that yesterday a group of demonstrators in Dezful gathered around the army garrison and provoked military personnel by throwing stones and shouting slogans. Meanwhile, a group of demonstrators attacked the family of a noncommissioned officer and subjected them to insults.

These violent and dreadful actions, which are undoubtedly perpetrated by foreign agents and those who always seek to cause a breach between the army and the people and who do not shirk from doing anything to achieve this end, led to an unfortunate result: clashes between the military personnel and the people. In the incident, unfortunately, six people were killed and 20 injured.

For its part, the imperial armed forces expresses regret at this incident.

TALEBANI'S KURDISH INSURGENTS ATTACK GUARDPOST

LD181118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the chief of the supreme commander's staff has announced that Jalal Talebani's Kurdish insurgents attacked a guardpost in the western part of the country.

At 1700 on 17 January, a detachment of gendarmes on patrol from Gorish guardpost was surprised and attacked by about 60 members of Jalal Talebani's Kurdish insurgents, who penetrated 2 kilometers inside Iranian territory. In the attack three soldiers from the detachment were captured with their arms and ammunition and two others were wounded in the leg. The condition of one of them is critical. The Gorish guardpost is still surrounded by the insurgents. We have no further information about the incidents.

TEHRAN CITES KHOMEYNI MESSAGES TO YOUTH

LD172110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In a speech addressed to Iranian young people, His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni says: I call on Iranian youth to prevent all kinds of destruction and disorder. Those who cause such disorder are foreign agents and we will punish them in due course.

In another report, carried by the paper ETTELA'AT on the basis of a telephone conversation, His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni is quoted as saying that young people should undertake to safeguard the security of the country's cities and villages and should bar the way to any group of people who intend to cause trouble, riots or destruction. Anyone who now wishes to embark on [word indistinct], destruction and setting fire to public property will suffer severe punishment.

KHOMEYNI PROMISES NEW CONSTITUTION, TRIAL OF SHAH

LD171416 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] From Paris the Ayatollah Khomeyni has announced that a new constitution will be drawn up for Iran soon. He also says that the shah will soon be tried. The Shi'ite leader calls on the people to continue with their strikes and demonstrations against the monarchic system and the usurpatory government. He asks the army to end its support for the shah.

It has also just been learned that Iranian ambassadors in seven countries, including France, has just been dismissed.

REGENCY COUNCIL MEMBER TEHRANI GOES TO SEE KHOMEYNI

TA181228 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 18 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18 (AFP)--Seyyed Jamaleddin Tehrani, head of Iran's Regency Council, left here today for talks in Paris with exiled Shi'ite Muslim opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, informed sources said.

Mr Tehrani had been sent by Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar to open negotiations with the ayatollah who has reportedly agreed to meet Mr Tehrani, informed circles said.

The mission was aimed at finding a compromise to save the country from a state of general disorder, they added.

Meanwhile, the ayatollah, at his exile home outside Paris, said calm and stability could return to Iran only on condition there was no outside interference, notably from the superpowers, in the country's internal affairs.

("The legality of the government depends on the decision of the Iranian people", he said in answer to U.S. President Jimmy Carter's appeal yesterday to give the new Iranian civilian government a chance to succeed.

("We hope that Mr Carter's statements on non-interference in Iran's internal affairs will be the basis of American policy," he added.

(President Carter had said the United States had neither the desire nor the intention to interfere in the affairs of Iran and would not permit other nations to do so.)

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS KHOMEYNI WILL RETURN 19 OR 20 JAN

JN181303 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1255 GMT 18 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 January--The Kuwaiti newspapers today assert that Ayatollah Khomeyni will return to Tehran and that preparations are underway in Tehran to receive him.

Quoting political sources described as being in constant contact with Khomeyni, the newspaper AS-SIYASAH says that Khomeyni will arrive in Tehran on either Friday or Saturday, 19 or 20 January.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN CALLS FOR UNITY, U.S. DEPARTURE

TA172207 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice to Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 January carries a commentary advising the "dear fellow citizens and friends" of Iran of the importance of "the national unity of the people of our country." The radio says that in order to "realize the desires of all the people of Iran for freedom and democracy," the country requires "the widespread participation" of the workers and of all progressive and national forces. It declares that the unity of the workers, peasants and all classes of toiling and progressive people is needed for the revolution.

The unidentified commentator says: "The participation of the masses of villagers in the national revolutionary movement is a vital matter. All villagers must [words indistinct] participate in this vast movement with the national and nationalisitc movement of Iran."

At the beginning of what is apparently a second commentary, the commentator says: "Dear fellow citizens, the people of our nation have risen up [words indistinct] and the united people of our nation are embracing one another in the streets, the bazaars, the avenues and squares." They are congratulating each other and giving flowers to their brothers in the military "in honor of the shah's departure from the nation." "They are setting the flowers on top of their machineguns and tanks and they are embracing each other." Thanks to the pressure of the people's struggle, 25 years of treason and corruption are ending.

"At the order of the shah, in just the period of the past year roughly 7,000 Iranians have been killed or wounded. No family can be found in Iran" that has not been touched by the shah's regime. This was true "during the 37 years of power of his regime" [as heard], and--thanks to the American and English coup d'etat--it was particularly true during the past 25 years. They thought that the Iranian nation was not worthy of freedom and independence.

"The shah is now in the embrace of As-Sadat." The shah's departure "can and must be the first step in the transfer of power and [word indistinct] authority to the Iranian nation." Now it is America that heads the list of concerns of the Iranian nation. "Now the wish of the Iranian people is this: After the departure of the shah, now it is America's turn."

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN URGES REVOLUTIONARY FORCES' ACTION

TA172230 [Editorial Report TA] After its opening announcement, National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 17 January calls on all Iranians "to unite and wage a united struggle." It says: "Our cause is just and victory is ours."

The radio then carries a commentary saying that "the Iranian people are happy because, contrary to the inclination of his American friends, the shah has been compelled to leave the country in conformity with the Iranian nation's will."

The commentary describes the shah as "a despotic man who for 37 years [as heard] imposed his will and that of his masters on the Iranian nation, who terrorized and persecuted the people, who had thousands of honest men tortured or executed and who placed our country's national wealth at the disposal of American and Western monopolies and their Iranian lackeys." "Such is the criminal who has fled the country."

"If there had been a national government in the country, it would have brought the shah before justice to account for the treason, crimes and murders he committed over the past 37 years." "Nevertheless, the Iranian nation's struggle will continue. The shah's expulsion from the country is the first achievement resulting from the Iranian nation's struggle and sacrifices." "His Holiness Ayatollah Khomeyni has congratulated the Iranian nation and confirmed that the nation will continue the struggle for the establishment of a national state--a national and revolutionary Islamic republic."

The commentary then notes: Those who plundered the country with the shah and supported and shared in his despotic regime will continue to resist. "True, the shah has fled the country, but his collapsing regime is still there." The proponents of the shah's regime are supported by tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed as advisers in Iran.

The commentary warns that "revolutionary zest and passion" is not enough. It says: "The nation must reach a stage for a serious and crushing blow, the success of which requires joint action by all national and progressive forces and all ethnic leaders as well as joint countermeasures against all armed action by the shah regime and its pro-American supporters. This is a vital need. If the national, progressive and antishah regime forces fail to adopt the extensive and wide-ranging measures needed to counter the counterrevolutionary armed attacks by the pro-American supporters of the shah's regime, they will meet with unimaginable difficulties.

"Revolutionary vigilance requires that all revolutionary associations, committees and councils now prepare all patriots in all institutions, all administrations, all public services, all bazaars--in short, patriots everywhere, that is, the whole nation--for a counterattack to crush any and every move by the supporters of the shah's evil regime. This is required for the creation of a national and revolutionary government."

AFGHANISTAN

TEXT OF PRESIDENT TARAKI'S 31 DEC NATIONWIDE ADDRESS

LDT171750 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Today is the 14th anniversary of the People's Democratic Party's [PDP] First Congress. The day has been celebrated at meetings and conferences all over the country. President Taraki broadcast a statement on the occasion from radio-television to the people of Afghanistan last night. Here is the text of his statement.

Comrades-in-arms and the valiant and noble people of Afghanistan: The PDP, the pioneer of the working class in the country, is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year under conditions when, for the first time in the country's history, a Khalqi revolution has succeeded under its leadership in beloved Afghanistan and political power has been transferred from the hands of oppressive classes to the working class and its revolutionary allies, namely, the peasants and toilers, and the great Sowr Revolution, which succeeded under the leadership of our party through the revolutionary uprising on the part of the people's armed forces and the broad support by the toilers in the country opened a new page in the 5,000-year-long history of our ancient country and paved the way for rebuilding (?this area) for the benefit of the toiling man in our glorious country.

Our workers, peasants and other toilers henceforth are masters of their country and what they produce with their sweat and toil belongs to themselves.

During the short period of something more than 8 months since the great Sowr Revolution, many great tasks have been accomplished for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan which could never be imagined during the past centuries. The decrees issued by the Revolutionary Council and tens of other useful measures have liberated our people from centuries-long feudal slavery and cruelty. Now many obstacles have been removed from the path leading to a life of freedom and prosperity for the people.

It may be stated that through the decrees No 6, 7 and 8, the toilers in Afghanistan have gained more than (?1.5 billion Afghanis).

However, the fountainhead of all these great events upon which our country's history can pride itself is the formation of the PDP and its first congress.

Since the first party congress and up to the (?day) on which the great historic events took place in the country, namely, the great Sowr Revolution, our party has passed over a difficult path and the 14th anniversary of the first congress of our party will be marked by the party organization at 2 pm tomorrow.

Our glorious party, since its inception, created different organizations and circles throughout its struggle and then linked these together. At that stage a number of persons did not find themselves capable of continuing class struggle in accordance with the epoch-making workers' ideology and therefore they withdrew from the ranks of Khalqi fighters on this or that pretext. But the fighting comrades loyal to the aspirations of the people, who at the beginning of the formation of the party were away from the country, informed us of their adherence to the aspirations of the working class. At this stage, too, the powerful in the royal court attempted to take over the leadership of this workers' movement with the infiltration of their own proteges and to possess it.

But the PDP, in the light of the scientific ideology of the working class, nipped all these tricks and plots in the bud and continued to grow.

During the intensification of class struggle the First Congress of the PDP was held. It was apparent that persons connected with the aristocracy and feudalism were trying to work in the congress, too, for the benefit of their masters and to pave the way for taking over the party's leadership. However, the (?following) struggle by the party brought out the facts.

After the First Congress of the PDP took place successfully and another fraternal party was added to the revolutionary workers' world, its (?growth) became very rapid and the scope of its influence was expanding far and wide.

The followers of aristocracy and the hirelings of the royal court, as well as the enemies of class struggle and unity among the people of the country, created many obstacles (?which developed) numerous difficulties for the party concerning (?its) constitution and matters of the party's work among the people and the expansion of the Central Committee of the party. Even then the party emerged successfully out of the crisis and (?the course) the PDP was defending was proved in action.

With the consolidation of the PDP and its (?spread) among the toiling masses in the country, the ruling class began thinking of undermining the party and wanted to create confusion among its rank-and-file. Under the leadership of their self-evident agents they succeeded several times in misleading some members of the party and persuaded them to secede from it. By offering privileges to them they were made to fight against the PDP, the pioneer of the working class, for many years and with their propaganda on the behest of their masters, they struck severe blows upon the glorious members of the party leadership. However, the party leadership and the principled and honest struggle by its people brought all such efforts by the enemies of the people to nil and the PDP, the pioneer of the working class, emerged victorious in the fight.

When Da'ud was in power all hirelings of this tyrant were endeavoring to weaken the PDP until it succumbed. But these frantic efforts on the part of the enemies of the people met with failure because our party (?was standing) upon firm, historical, political and ideological bases, which the agents of the tyrant could never destroy. This policy by Da'ud, that one should go to imperialism and reaction and (?surrender to these), persuaded our party to adopt new tactics for the success of a Khalqi revolution in the country. It was due to these tactics that the party succeeded in preparing itself to defend the interests of the people, even though the enemies of the party at this time were also employing tricks and [word indistinct], yet they could not prevent the success of the glorious revolution of the people, namely, the great Sowr Revolution. This revolution succeeded through the PDP under my direction and guidance and the command of my wise, active and selfless pupil, Comrade Hafizollah Amin, and with the valor and glorious selflessness of the Khalqi commanders and officers of the armed forces.

With the success of the Sowr Revolution, however, conspiracies against the party and the people did not stop and all internal and external enemies of the party joined hands and plotted against our party and Khalqi government, (?But yet), through the loyalty and honesty of the party leadership, in accordance with the principles of the party and the epoch-making working class, all these plots were uncovered and destroyed.

Our party throughout its existence has adhered to the principles of the workers' struggle throughout its (?fight) and it was fought intensely against organizational and ideological malpractices, and by taking advantage of the experience of world freedom movements, it has pursued the epoch-making workers' ideology in its class struggle.

By following this course, which was full of (?tests), the party succeeded within a short time to emerge as a party defending the interests of all toilers in the country and to solve the large problems, including that of taking over political power, which lie at the root of every revolution and to carry in a creative manner a revolution to success in the country that has no precedent in the world and is a special feature in Afghanistan.

Under the present conditions the PDP has taken over political power on behalf of the workers, peasants and other toilers in the beloved country. It is now fighting against the shameful bequest of feudalism, (?does major work) against hunger, disease, ignorance and (?antisocial) relationships and leads the fight by the people of Afghanistan against internal reaction and imperialist conspiracy. The basis of the party, therefore, should grow as a constructive force capable of discharging its heavy duties honorably toward the valiant people of Afghanistan and progressive humanity.

Comrades, under the present conditions, wherever you are, your duties are very heavy and difficult and it is a great honor to discharge them. While offering on the 14th anniversary of the First Congress of the PDP my most sincere congratulations to my valorous people, I hope that you will follow future guidance as a lesson for conducting your work and fight as (?true) servants of the revolution. Wherever and in whatever position that you may be you should display high character as the true servants of the people of Afghanistan. You must treat your people with revolutionary courtesy and modesty. You should learn from them and enhance their political knowledge. You must enlighten them about the decrees issued by the Revolutionary Council and endeavor to apply the decrees with revolutionary zeal and without regard for person, family, etc. You should stand in the first ranks at the time of sacrifice and at the last at the time of obtaining of privileges. You should place in your party's line the real and outstanding sons of the people and the country and should [word indistinct] your party's line from decadent, time-serving and [word indistinct] elements who have hidden themselves under the progressive mask. You must look with great esteem to the unity of the party, unity of the people of Afghanistan and the equality of the rights of the toilers in the country as if this were the pupil of your eye. You should spare no sacrifice in the way of creation of equality and confidence among all the nationalities of the country and among all the toilers, be they small or large. You should struggle with (?grandeur) and the spirit of patriotism and faithfulness to the principles of the workers' internationalism for international peace, reduction of tension and propagation of friendship with the peoples of the countries of the world. You should strive with a revolutionary determination (?for) learning of the epoch-making workers' ideology and to serve as untiring educators in the way of teaching and propagation of this ideology to others because this is an ideology which illuminates the path to victory of the revolutionary guide's difficult (?task) and creates in them the powerful hope for final victory and revolutionary prosperity.

The great and liberating revolution of Sowr increased the wishes and aspirations of our noble people and within the framework of the possibilities of the present phase of our society's evolution, meeting the wishes of our toilers requires of us to increase the level of production of our productive institutions and, according to the plan, to put into operation new productive forces. The economic aspirations of our country's toilers cannot be achieved without evolution of production. The liberation of the valorous people of Afghanistan from the evils of hun er, ignorance and disease can only be achieved through the guidance of the PDP and by continuous oroductive work.

Khalqi comrades, members of the organizations of workers, employees and people's organizations of women and youth, [few words indistinct] all the noble and toiling people of the country should work with a revolutionary spirit so that in the field of industry as well as all areas of agriculture and utilizing all the possibilities they should raise the level of production and should thus (?take) an active and serious part in the implementation of the [word indistinct] 5-year plan.

With the support of (?other) toilers in the country and (?for strengthening) of the political power of the worker class, which is reflected in the Democratic Republic State of Afghanistan, you should (?be there) [word indistinct] with every sacrifice and under all conditions in the way of defending the territorial integrity [passage indistinct] because for a revolutionary and patriotic person it is a matter of great pride and honor to sacrifice his life in the way of preservation of the political power of the people and achievement of their great aspirations.

The [word indistinct] martyrs of our party sacrificed themselves with such high patriotic feelings and recorded their unforgettable and eternal names in the history of the (?prideful) struggles of the people of the country.

Long live and everlasting be the valorous people of Afghanistan! Everlasting be the (?championing) of the task of liberation and prosperity of the people! Victory, strength and unity to the PDP and (?hoisted be) the red banner of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

MORE ON TARAKI's 26 DEC SPEECH TO ARMY OFFICERS

LDT171400 [Editorial Report LD] Kabul in English to South Asia at 1400 GMT on 28 December carries the "second part" of the report on Taraki's speech to officers of the No 7 army command at People's House on 26 December.

In this part of his speech, Taraki paid tribute to Hafizollah Amin and his work and said: "I am satisfied with him and the party is also pleased with him". About Afghanistan's foreign policy Taraki said that Afghanistan desired peace and friendship with all neighboring countries and expected them not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs. He said: "We have friendship with Pakistan, Iran and China and we have extremely good friendship with the Soviet Union". He went on to speak about Afghanistan's desire for peace in the world and for the equality of all people. He said: "We want that struggle should be made everywhere for maintaining peace and security. At this time we want to build a new Afghanistan, (?to) construct a new society here. We are desirous of peace and (?are struggling) for maintaining peace. Once we construct our new society we will again work for peace.

He then denounced the neutron bomb and other weapons of mass destruction and again reminded the armed forces that they should work in the service of the people.

YOUTH DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR, E. EUROPE

LD171325 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] A Khalqi Youth Organization delegation returned home yesterday morning after visiting the USSR, Czechoslovakia, the GDR and Hungary. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by the vice chairman of the Khalqi Youth Organization, members of the organization leadership and some members of the Soviet Embassy.

The chairman of the Khalqi Youth Organization told the BAKHTAR reporter upon arrival that during the tour useful talks were held on further strengthening relations with youth organizations in the countries visited. Similarly, expansion of bilateral relations between the Khalqi Youth Organization and the Soviet Komsomol were studied and decisions were made. He added that in the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia and the Democratic Republic of Germany talks were held on expanding the scope of cooperation (?among) the Union of Communist Youth of Czechoslovakia, the organization of the Free Youth of the Democratic Republic of Germany and the Khalqi Youth Organization of Afghanistan, and that protocols on cooperation between the Khalqi Youth Organization of Afghanistan and the youth organizations of these countries in 1979 were also signed.

The delegation of the Khalqi Youth Organization of Afghanistan, during its visit to Hungary, held fruitful talks with the leaders of the youth federation on the full membership of the Khalqi Youth Organization of Afghanistan in the federation. The delegation also contacted the Asian section of the International Youth Federation in Hungary and held useful talks with it. In Hungary the delegation held talks with the youth organization of the country on strengthening ties between it and the Khalqi Youth Organization of Afghanistan and initialled the protocol on cooperation between the two organizations. Similarly, the delegation also held meetings with party and government authorities in the country at which the great Sowr Revolution in Afghanistan and its results were explained. Similarly, (?the press) in these countries have explained our great Khalqi revolution, he said.

INDIA

TIMES OF INDIA ON U.S. POLICY OF REARMING PAKISTAN

BK171433 Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jan 79 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "True Victims"]

[Text] It is now quite clear that in the wake of the communist takeover in Afghanistan and the collapse of the shah's regime in Iran, the United States has settled for a policy of rearming Pakistan. Washington itself has confirmed that it will respond favourably to Pakistan's anticipated request for fighter planes. No one can be surprised by this development, for policy makers in America continue to have a touching faith in the efficacy of arms deliveries for winning friends, influencing people and stabilizing the so-called friendly regimes.

And, as in the 'fifties and the 'sixties, they are perhaps also frustrated with the country because now, as then, it refuses to buy the porposition that the Russians are hell bent on expansion--trying not only to reach the warm waters of the Persian Gulf through the Afghan mountain ranges and wastelands as allegedly under the czars but also control that oil-rich area. The outlook is simplistic beyond words, but that is the stuff of which U.S. policy is made, especially in respect of Third World countries. In Pakistan's case, as in many others like Zaire's, an additional argument has been readily available. It is that its armed forces alone can keep it together in view of the absence of reasonably well organised political parties, that this calls for an effort to keep up the morale of the three services and that the effort must involve a steady supply of reasonably sophisticated hardware. Mr Kissinger used this argument at the famous meeting of the National Security Council fairly explicitly at the time of the Indo-Pakistan war in December 1971 and Washington has not had second thoughts on its validity since. On top of it all, the Chinese, rather inexperienced in dealing with the world and strongly inclined to think in white and black terms, have been deeply concerned over what has happened in Afghanistan and is happening in Iran. Since they see Soviet hands in all such developments, they have possibly reinforced the well-known American proclivity to look for simple solutions for complicated problems.

This country will have reason to be concerned over this turn in U.S. policy, but it has coped with the consequences of similar U.S. actions in the past and should be able to do so in the future without too much difficulty. The real victims of the U.S. return to the discredited policy of the 'fifties will be the people of Pakistan, at least immediately and in the near future. If political immobility in Pakistan leads to a procommunist coup in course of time, India, too, will suffer. But that is a separate proposition. For the time being, the most pertinent point is that for Washington to back Paksitan's armed forces is to encourage Gen Zia to hold on to office despite his utter ineptitude, either postpone the promised elections indefinitely or to reduce them to a farce by disqualifying Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, the only truly popular organisation in the country, and perhaps even hang Mr Bhutto with consequences that can easily be imagined. It is this aspect of the matter that should concern New Delhi more than a crude arms balance-sheet and it is to this aspect that it should still try to draw Washington's attention.

DELHI PATRIOT ON U.S. TALKS IN PAKISTAN

BK1712 47 Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Jan 79 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "The Tilt"]

[Text] We may grumble, complain and get angry or make pathetic appeals, Washington continues to play its old game. While delivery of enriched uranium is delayed in our case, war planes and other offensive weapons will be supplied to Pakistan. U.S. under secretary responsible for arms sales, Lucy Benson, has completed her discussions in Islamabad, and it is reported that Pakistan's request will be soon granted as the hurdle of Pak-French deal on supply of nuclear equipment has been cleared. Thus, the tilt against India and in favour of Pakistan remains and no amount of "genuine" nonalignment on our part will remove it. It can go only when we make a total surrender to Washington, which many bright men in south block [External Affairs Ministry] may not disapprove of, but this will also entail surrender to Beijing [Peking] and conversion of India into a strategic link in the global chain of U.S.-Chinese collaboration.

Apart from the report about the sale of arms there are rumours that Washington and Islamabad are negotiating to set up an American espionage base somewhere in Pakistan. The rumours sound plausible against the background of the upheaval in Iran which is very much directed against American domination of the country. Not that the U.S. political and military tacticians have given up Iran for good and are actively considering Pakistan as a viable alternative. Pakistan's geographical position does not permit it to become as good an outpost as Iran with its command of the Persian Gulf and common border with the Soviet Union, but the Americans are certainly not in a position--nor did they ever desire--to put all their eggs in one basket. In times of difficulty they have to fall back on whatever reserve is available, and Pakistan is, indeed, a willing partner.

If the United States is compelled to make a final retreat from Iran, it may like to use Pakistan as a major base and conspire from there against the new Iranian regime and at the same time step up its destabilizing activity in Afghanistan. Already, American agents are busy subvering some tribal groups in that country. Western news agencies have been circulating tendentious reports about discontent in tribal areas and harsh measures being taken by the Kabul regime. It is said that religious leaders in Pakistan and Afghanistan have established contacts in order to organize a strong movement against Kabul. Obviously, they want to repeat the old story of the revolt of mullahs organised by British agents against King Amanullah because he was believed to be turning towards Moscow. General Ziaul Haq will be too willing to subvert Kabul's progressive regime as its very existence can promote ideas of social progress in the northwestern part of the country. India's policy makers can be indifferent to the clear possibility of increasing U.S. hold over Pakistan only at the peril of our own stability. The Americans play a ruthless game of geopolitics and Mr Jimmy Carter's sermons on morality and human rights, etc, are unadulterated humbug.

BULGARIA SIGNS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

BK180437 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jan 79 BK

[Text] India and Bulgaria have signed a 5-year agreement on cooperation in the fields of science and technology. It relates to minerals and metallurgy, agriculture engineering, space research and cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants.

The documents were signed by the director of the national physical laboratories, Dr A.R. Verma, and the chairman of Bulgarian space committee, Prof K. Serafimov, in New Delhi.

SRI LANKA

INDIAN COMMERCE MINISTER ADDRESSES ASIAN GROUP OF 77

BK160945 Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 16 Jan 79 BK

[Text] India's Minister of Commerce Mohan Dharia declared in Colombo January 15 that the primary object of UNCTAD 5 should be to design and stimulate comprehensive measures which would not only lead to faster growth of the developing countries but also alleviate the abject poverty of a large section of the world's population, reports PTI. He was speaking at the opening session of the Asian ministerial group meeting of the Group of 77 in Colombo.

Dharia said only the continued unity and solidarity of the Group of 77 could usher in a new international economic order. He spoke of the manifestations of short-term solutions to the problems which arise from the structural inadequacies of the present system adopted by the developed countries as an increase in protective measures, a decline in the flow of development assistance to the developing countries, a breakdown of the international economic order, the instable commodity markets and the adverse balance of the terms of trade for the developing countries. The concentration of power in international decision making in conclaves at which there is no participation by the developing countries should be unacceptable to the developing countries. We should therefore demand that the developing countries play in future a much larger role in the governance of affairs that affect their economies.

He expressed the hope that the Asian Group of 77 would take a firm stand on the elements which were standing in the way of the establishment of a common fund, a key element in the commodity programme, and express its strong determination to ensure that a decision to set up the fund was taken well before UNCTAD 5.

Once this has been achieved the stage would be set for launching the next stage of our struggle for creating a new international economic order, he said.

Dharia severely assailed the protectionist measures being adopted by the developed countries and said it was unfortunate that the very sectors like textiles in which the developing countries had acquired manufacturing capabilities had been subjected to cruel restraint.

The developing countries have just begun to industrialise their economies and to diversify their exports using their own resources and skills. These healthy developments will receive a severe setback if the developed countries are allowed to resort at will to protectionist devices to support the industrial sectors in their own countries which have ceased to be economic, he said.

GROUP OF 77 ISSUE DECLARATION ON ECONOMIC CONCERNS

BK171411 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 17 Jan 79 BK

[Text] A declaration and a program of action setting forth the complete proposals of the Asian bloc of the Group of 77 were adopted by the ministerial meeting which ended today in Colombo. Delegates from 30 countries and observers from UNCTAD, ESCAP and the International Trade Center were also present at the 3-day meeting.

The declaration refers to a wide range of issues to be considered at the fifth UNCTAD to be held in Manila in May.

The meeting decided to request the bureau of the Asian ministerial meeting to hold consultations among and coordinate the activities of the Asian group. The meeting expressed disappointment over the response of the developed countries to the implementation of the program of action for the establishment of a new economic order. Delegates viewed with concern trends in multinational trade negotiations and regretted the lack of political will on the part of developed countries. This, they pointed out, prevented negotiations on a code of conduct on the transfer of technology. They also noted the inadequacy of the transfer of resources to the developing countries. The meeting called for special inter-related measures to stimulate growth in the economies of developing nations. The conference also stressed the need for developing countries to have a greater share in the management of the world economy and the need to create an institutional mechanism within UNCTAD in this regard. The wide-ranging program of action covers developments in international trade, protectionism, commodities, monetary issues, shipping, trade relations, economic cooperation and institutional issues among other matters.

The minister of trade and shipping, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, who, as chairman of the meeting, told the final session today that the documents which have been adopted will be placed before the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 at Arusha in Tanzania next month. He said that the Asian group (?will) forge a common united position on many issues of trade and development which were of fundamental importance to participants. He thanked the participating nations and the staff, who in the opinion of the delegates, excelled in hospitality and courtesy, and said Sri Lanka was proud of the appreciative comments of the delegates regarding the staff.

BRIEFS

USSR MINING EQUIPMENT TO AFGHANISTAN--A contract pertaining to the delivery of equipment needed by the mines and geology survey department for 1979-80 has been signed between the Ministry of Industries and Tekhnoeksport firm of the Soviet Union. The contract has been signed by Eng Abdolkafi Rasuli, the deputy minister for mines, and (Chuvarov), assistant economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The equipment, which will cost over R3.5 million, will be delivered to Afghanistan within the next 24 months. The report adds that payment shall be made out of the Soviet credit. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD] Another contract for the extension of services of some Soviet experts was signed in the presence of the two deputy ministers of mines and industries and some members of the Soviet Embassy. This contract was signed by the technical chief of mines and geology survey department and the assistant economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD]

BURMESE REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH--About 50,000 Burmese refugees have so far left Bangladesh for their homes in Burma under the repatriation agreement between the two countries. BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha], quoting official sources, say since November last about 20,000 to 25,000 refugees are now being repatriated to Burma every month. This has given momentum to the repatriation process of the Burmese refugees numbering about 195,000 who crossed to Bangladesh early last year. [Text] [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 17 Jan 79 BK]

BANGLADESH MANPOWER TO SAUDI ARABIA--Saudi Arabia is to recruit initally 1,500 persons from Bangladesh for employment in different municipalities of that country. This was stated by the Saudi deputy minister for municipal affairs at a news conference in Dacca on 10 January. He expressed the hope that his country will recruit more skilled and unskilled manpower from Bangladesh in the near future. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 10 Jan 79 BK]

CANADIAN LOAN FOR PAKISTAN--Under an agreement signed in Islamabad on 15 January, Canada will provide Pakistan with 15 million Canadian dollars for assessments over the next 3 years for the Oil and Gas Development Corporation [OGDC]. The loan is interest free and payable within 50 years with a 10-year grace period. The loan is part of a Canadian program of assistance, the objective of which is to assist Pakistan in developing energy self-sufficiency. The agreement will provide the OGDC with equipment required for the accelerated development of the oil fields and for a stepped up program of exploration. To date, Canada has provided 3 million Canadian dollars in loans and grants for procuring equipment, training OGDC personnel and technical assistance. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK]